

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES DAVIES, Brice, Brown, Carney, Davidson, B. Davis, Finkelstein, Grussendorf, Hoffman, Mackie, Menard, Navarre, Nicholia, Nordlund, Sitton, Ulmer, Willis, Martin, Porter, Toohey, Green, G. Davis, Hudson

Introduced: 1/29/93

Referred: Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Thurgood Marshall, 1908 - 1993.

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 WHEREAS Thurgood Marshall was committed to the belief that the United States
4 Constitution protects the rights of all Americans; and

5 WHEREAS Thurgood Marshall devoted his life to protecting the civil rights of
6 individuals and was a tireless leader in the legal battle to eliminate racial discrimination and
7 promote human rights and equal opportunity; and

8 WHEREAS Thurgood Marshall graduated with honors from Howard University Law
9 School in 1933; and

10 WHEREAS, as a lawyer, Thurgood Marshall took the lead in challenging whites-only
11 primary elections and explicit racial discrimination in housing; and

12 WHEREAS, during his 25 years as legal counsel for the National Association for the
13 Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Thurgood Marshall won 29 of the 32 cases that
14 he argued before the United States Supreme Court; and

15 WHEREAS Thurgood Marshall's most famous case, while legal counsel for the
16 NAACP, was the landmark Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka school desegregation case
17 in which a unanimous United States Supreme Court "outlawed" racial segregation in public

1 education and overruled the outmoded doctrine that allowed "separate but equal" education
2 for black children in public schools; and

3 **WHEREAS** the appointment of Thurgood Marshall to the United States Supreme
4 Court by President Lyndon Johnson in 1967 followed a successful legal career as a civil rights
5 attorney, court of appeals judge, and United States Solicitor General; and

6 **WHEREAS** Thurgood Marshall was the first African-American to serve on the United
7 States Supreme Court; and

8 **WHEREAS** Thurgood Marshall served 24 years on the United States Supreme Court;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, as an associate justice on the United States Supreme Court, Thurgood
11 Marshall sought to protect people from governmental infringement of their rights to fair and
12 equal treatment under the law, free speech, due process, and privacy; and

13 **WHEREAS** Thurgood Marshall supported affirmative action programs, legal
14 protections for criminal defendants and the poor, and the rights of women; and

15 **WHEREAS** President Bill Clinton has said of Thurgood Marshall, "Every American
16 should be grateful for the contributions he has made as an advocate and as a justice of the
17 United States Supreme Court."; and

18 **WHEREAS** Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor also said of Thurgood
19 Marshall, "We've lost a true American hero. He left behind a legacy of hope of racial
20 equality."; and

21 **WHEREAS** Thurgood Marshall died January 24, 1993:

22 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature joins the Nation in mourning
23 the passing of Thurgood Marshall; and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature salutes and honors
25 Thurgood Marshall, a great American, and hopes that his life will be an inspiration to all
26 Americans to strive against injustice and discrimination wherever they are found.