

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY SENATORS SHARP, Miller, Frank, Taylor, Pearce, Leman, Kerttula, Zharoff, Ellis, Kelly, Phillips, Donley, Halford, Lincoln, Little, Duncan**

**REPRESENTATIVE Nordlund**

**Introduced: 2/2/94**  
**Referred: Resources**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to the Gold Rush Centennial Decade.**

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

**3 WHEREAS the discoveries of gold in Alaska and the Yukon in the late 1890s set off**  
**4 the last great American gold rush, luring thousands of men and women north, some to escape**  
**5 economic depression, others to seek adventure; and**

**6 WHEREAS prospectors searched throughout Alaska, including the Southeast**  
**7 panhandle, the Kenai Peninsula, the Seward Peninsula, and the vast Interior, discovering gold**  
**8 and other precious metals and establishing new towns such as Circle, Nome, Juneau, Skagway,**  
**9 Fairbanks, Hope, Iditarod, and Valdez; and**

**10 WHEREAS along with the prospectors came people, both honest and crooked, to**  
**11 provide services to the miners and, in the process, to stimulate the development of**  
**12 communications, local governments, and establishment of transportation routes like the**  
**13 Chilkoot, Iditarod, Valdez, Kantishna, Bonnifield, Dalton, and Circle City trails; and**

**14 WHEREAS, while the participants were predominantly white males, there were also**  
**15 women, Asians, and African-Americans who were part of the Gold Rush story; and**

**16 WHEREAS Alaska Natives participated in the Gold Rush and the changes the Gold**

1 Rush brought to the territory dramatically changed their way of life, impacting land rights,  
2 hunting grounds, and trade and travel routes; and

3 **WHEREAS** the gold mining industry has become an integral part of Alaska's  
4 economy, with over 200 producing gold mines, employing hundreds of persons, and producing  
5 over 260,000 ounces of gold in 1992 worth more than \$88,000,000; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Governor and Lieutenant Governor formed the Alaska Gold Rush  
7 Centennial Task Force in 1993, consisting of 124 members from 25 Alaska communities,  
8 Washington, and the Yukon Territory, representing federal, state, and municipal governments,  
9 tourism organizations, historical groups, museums, libraries, the news media, private  
10 businesses, educational institutions, and Native organizations; and

11 **WHEREAS** the mission of the task force is to coordinate statewide celebration of the  
12 100th anniversary in order to promote the understanding of the importance of the Gold Rush  
13 Era in Alaska's history and to enhance tourism opportunities; and

14 **WHEREAS** the task force supports education, research, documentation, and  
15 preservation of historical resources from the Gold Rush Era;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature designates the years 1994  
17 through 2004 as the Gold Rush Centennial Decade; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the Alaska Gold  
19 Rush Centennial Task Force as coordinator and promoter of statewide centennial activities;  
20 and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges schools, public and  
22 private organizations, and the people of the state to coordinate statewide celebrations of the  
23 100th anniversary in order to promote an understanding of the importance of the Gold Rush  
24 Era in Alaska's history and to enhance tourism opportunities.