

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR TAYLOR

Introduced: 2/5/93
Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the United States Air Force to rename Shemya Air Force Base to
2 Eareckson Air Force Base.

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

4 WHEREAS Shemya Air Force Base is the only air force base in Alaska without a
5 dedicated name; and

6 WHEREAS Major William O. Eareckson arrived in Alaska when his squadron was
7 deployed to Elmendorf Field in April 1941 before the outbreak of hostilities between the
8 United States and Japan, served in Alaska until after the recapture of Attu Island and Kiska
9 Island in 1943, and was promoted to Colonel while serving in Alaska; and

10 WHEREAS Colonel Eareckson was a military leader and active combatant in the
11 Aleutian Campaign of World War II; and

12 WHEREAS Colonel Eareckson received numerous decorations for his service in
13 Alaska, including the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air
14 Medal, the Navy Cross, and the Purple Heart; and

15 WHEREAS, after leaving Alaska, Colonel Eareckson participated in battles in the
16 Pacific Theater to recapture Tarawa, Kwajalein, Palau, Hollandia, and Guam during World

1 War II, served in Korea during the Korean War, and received additional decorations for this
2 service; and

3 **WHEREAS** Colonel Eareckson's devotion to his duty and men was unflinching, his
4 leadership inspiring, his courage unflinching, and his pride in his service and in his country was
5 a way of life; and

6 **WHEREAS** the 50th Anniversary of the landing of U.S. troops on Shemya Island in
7 the Aleutian Islands is May 28, 1993;

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature endorses the dedication of
9 Shemya Air Force Base as Eareckson Air Force Base; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
11 Department of the Air Force to approve the renaming of Shemya Air Force Base as Eareckson
12 Air Force Base.

13 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
14 United States; the Honorable Les Aspin, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense; the
15 Secretary of the Air Force; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
16 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
17 the Alaska delegation in Congress.