

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19(RLS)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/1/93
Referred: Today's Calendar

Sponsor(s): SENATORS TAYLOR, Jacko

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 unailing, 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 Honorable Michael B. Donley, Acting Secretary of the Air Force; the Commanding Officer,
16 Shemya Air Force Base, U.S. Air Force; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
17 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
18 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.