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HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

NEXT COMMITTEE: RULES

BILL: HB 554

CURRENT VERSION:

SCHEDULED: APRIL 18, 1988

SPONSOR: STATE AFFAIRS

PHONE NO: ULMER/4947

CONTACT FILE: \_\_\_\_\_

BILL SUBJECT: AN ACT ESTABLISHING "ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY" ON FEBRUARY 8 OF EACH YEAR

SPONSOR BACKUP: IN FILES

AFFECTED AGENCIES:

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CONTACT/PHONE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
ANB	RICHARD STITT/586-1432	

FISCAL NOTES

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>REQUESTED</u>	<u>DATED</u>	<u>FY 88 AMT</u>	<u>FY 89 AMT</u>
N/A		4/18/88	-0-	-0-

ACTION

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
4/18/88	PASSED FROM HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCHY - STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
907-465-3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

*House State Affs.*

*April 18 ~ 1988*

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 4/8/88

FURTHER REFERRALS:

DATE: 4-18-88

The State Affairs Committee has considered HB 554

"An Act establishing "Elizabeth Peratrovich Day" on February 8 of each year."

**RECOMMENDS:**

- replace with \_\_\_\_\_  the same title
- attached amendment(s)  a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**ADOPTS:**  \_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent

**ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):**

- fiscal impact  same as previous fiscal note published \_\_\_\_\_
- zero fiscal note  same as previous zero fiscal note published \_\_\_\_\_
- zero with analysis

**SIGNING DO PASS:**

*[Handwritten signatures]*

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**SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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\_\_\_\_\_

*[Handwritten signature]*

Chairman's signature

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: AN ACT ESTABLISHING "ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY" ON FEBRUARY 8 OF EACH YEAR  
Sponsor: STATE AFFAIRS  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: N/A  
BRU: \_\_\_\_\_  
Components: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: FRAN ULMER, CHAIR Phone: 465-4947  
Division: HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE Date: 4/18/88

Approved by Commissioner: *[Signature]* Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- Distribution (by preparer):
- Legislative Finance
  - Legislative Sponsor
  - Requestor
  - Office of Management and Budget
  - Impacted Agency(ies)



*Grand Camp*  
*Alaska Native Brotherhood*

*Received*

April 6, 1988

Representative Fran Ulmer  
P O Box V Mailstop 3100  
Juneau Ak 99811

Dear Representative Ulmer:

I have been informed that members of the Douglas ANB Camp have been seeking your assistance in establishing some recognition of Elizabeth Peratrovich as a prominent individual in the Native Community: Prior to the Douglas Camp, effort, Mr. Pat Paul, ANB Executive Committee member had sought your assistance in developing some recognition of Elizabeth Peratrovich.

The absence of public recognition of some of our distinguished Native People reflects poorly on our Native people. A child could conclude that since there are no visible signs of recognizing the significant achievements of some of our people, that the Tlingits and Haidas do not exist and are merely a myth or a figment of someone's imagination. The need to be recognized as a contributing factor to society is important for all races.

In the past our people filed in their memories the great deeds of our ancestors and past it on to each succeeding generation.

R.L. Olson states in his work: Social Structure and Social Life of the Tlingit in Alaska the following:

"It was said of the really high caste people, especially those of Chilkat, that they would lie awake at night for long hours thinking on the great names and great deeds of those 'through whom they had come'."

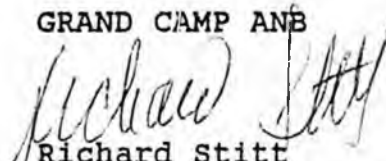
The lack of recognition of our great people has been a concern of the ANB for some time. We recognize that designating and honoring our heroes is a task that matters only to us, as Native People. It is of no concern to other societies.

The ANB, during the Sitka ANB Convention which included the celebration of our 75th year of existence. Adopted the following attached Resolution #82, Titled: Native College Graduates Recognition. Resolution #14 Titled: Written History of ANB and ANS, addresses the notion that we need to fill the void - so that our people can appreciate and feel good about their accomplishments.

Enclosed are copies of my letter to Governor Cowper. Any suggestions you may offer to aid in our efforts to establish a Elizabeth Peratrovich Day will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

GRAND CAMP ANB



Richard Stitt  
Grand President

encl.  
RS:cne



*Grand Camp*  
*Alaska Native Brotherhood*

RESOLUTION # 82

TITLE: NATIVE COLLEGE GRADUATES RECOGNITION

WHEREAS, It was the explicit desire of our founding fathers that future generations be granted the benefits offered by educational opportunities, and

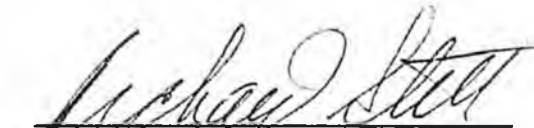
WHEREAS, Subsequent generation's have acquired credentials from post-secondary educational institutions, and

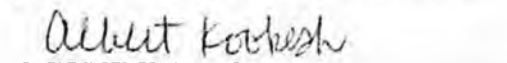
WHEREAS, These educational achievements are often not appreciated by the Native Organizations and Native Corporations; now,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Native Organizations and Corporations, and the Governor of the State of Alaska with the recommendation that a week be established for recognizing Native College Graduates.

**ATTEST:**

I certify that this resolution was adopted by the ANB-ANS Grand Camp in convention at Sitka, Alaska, during the week of November 9-12, 1987.

  
Richard Stitt, Grand President

  
Albert Kookesh, Grand Secretary



*Grand Camp*  
*Alaska Native Brotherhood*

RESOLUTION # 14

TITLE: WRITTEN HISTORY OF ANB AND ANS

WHEREAS, The Alaska Native Brotherhood is the oldest Native or Indian organization in the United States, organized in 1912, and there is no written history of the organization and its main historic accomplishments. In subsequent years the Alaska Native Sisterhood was organized, and it to, has no written history, and,

WHEREAS, Due to the absence of a written history we hear various, and at times conflicting information about the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood's history, and unfortunately, at times, the information is not based on good or true information, and,

WHEREAS, We have very few member remaining who are knowledgeable on the history of ANB and ANS, and who were active, and still are, in the ANB and ANS, we should draw on their knowledge while they are available, they are the ones who can come up with as near accurate as possible account of the ANB and ANS as many of them were practically born and raised in the organization, and to them, this is the only organization. It will take a committee of at least five to accomplish this task, and, now

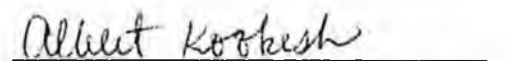
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood in convention assembled in Sitka, Alaska on this 12th day of November, 1987 that the Grand President of the ANB is authorized to appoint a committee of at least five of the membership to undertake this task, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sum of \$5000.00 be appropriated to defray the expense of this worthy project.

ATTEST:

I certify that this resolution was adopted by the ANB-ANS Grand Camp in convention at Sitka, Alaska, during the week of November 9-12, 1987.

  
Richard Stitt, Grand President

  
Albert Kookesh, Grand Secretary



*Grand Camp*  
*Alaska Native Brotherhood*

March 30, 1980

Steve Cowper  
The Honorable Governor  
State of Alaska  
P O Box A  
Juneau AK 99811-0101

Dear Governor Cowper:

Attached is a resolution adopted by the ANB Executive Committee urging the State legislature to designate February 8, as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day. She was a prominent figure in our organization and was very instrumental in obtaining passage of the Alaska Anti-Discrimination Act.

Attached is an article from the Juneau Empire dated February 8, 1945, that describes her efforts to achieve the passage of the legislature.

Any influence you can expend to achieve this recognition of our past ANS President would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

GRAND CAMP, ANB

  
Richard Stitt  
Grand President

RS:cne



*Grand Camp*  
*Alaska Native Brotherhood*

RESOLUTION NO. 88-2

TITLE: ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY

BY: ANB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE


WHEREAS, HR #14 passed February 8, 1945 in the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska during the Seventeenth Session, Entitled "An Act to provide for full and equal accomodations, facilities and privileges to all citizens in places of public accommodation within the jurisdiction of the Territory of Alaska; to provide penalties for violations." and


WHEREAS, this was the first anti-discrimination Bill introduced and passed in Alaska and

WHEREAS, The controversial Bill was supported by the Alaska Native Brotherhood & Alaska Native Sisterhood for two contentious years prior to passage, and

WHEREAS, ANS Grand President, Elizabeth Peratrovich provided the testimony which overcome the unfavorable predispositon that existed toward Alaska Native's

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Executive Committee of Alaska Native Brotherhood recommends that the fifteenth Alaska State Legislature officially recognize February 8th as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day, in honor of her courageous continuous endeavor to abolish discrimination in Alaska forever and was a major factor in passage of the discrimination bill.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ALBERT KOOKESH  
GRAND SECRETARY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RICHARD STITT  
GRAND PRESIDENT



# Grand Camp Alaska Native Brotherhood

Grand President ANB  
Frank C. Williams  
1st Vice President  
William Thomas  
2nd Vice President  
James Martin  
Secretary  
Albert Kachuk  
Treasurer  
Paul Young  
Sergeant-At-Arms  
Lawrence Grant  
Grand President ANS  
Evel Linn

## MEMORANDUM

TO : All Camps ANB/ANS  
FROM : Richard Stitt, President  
ANB Grand Camp  
DATE : April 24, 1987  
SUBJECT : February 6, 1945 News Article

As we commemorate 75 years of service, we need to remember those in our ranks who fought the good fight.

Attached is a newspaper account of the hearing regarding the Equal Rights Bill. Mrs. Elizabeth Peratrovich certainly was outstanding in her presentation and testimony. She won many friends as she stood along side her husband, Roy Peratrovich trying to convince some opposition legislators, that discrimination is evil.

On this issue, ANB led the fight and may have been the only entity lobbying for this legislation. ANB/ANS can be proud that this effort helped all the Natives across the State.

RS:ld

Attachment

Past ANB Grand Presidents  
Dr. Alfred Williams  
Patrick J. Paul  
Thomas Johnson

John Hope  
Frank See  
Dr. Walter Gossert

Richard Stitt  
Steven V. Hosen  
Nelson G. Frank

Frank C. Williams  
Herbert Hosen  
Robert R. Martin

Roy Peratrovich, Grand President Emeritus  
Dr. Cyrus Paul, Sr., Grand Secretary Emeritus  
Dr. Mitchell Sennott, ANB Grand President Emeritus

Juneau Empire  
February 6, 1945

Super Race Theory Hit in Hearing  
Native Sisterhood President Hits at "Rights" Bill Opposition

Opposition that had appeared to speak with a strong voice was forced to a defensive whisper at the close of yesterday's Senate hearing on the "Equal Rights" issue. Mrs. Roy Peratrovich, Grand President of the ANS, the last speaker to testify, climaxed the hearing by wringing volleying applause from the galleries and senate floor alike, with a biting condemnation of the "Super Race" attitude.

Reciting instances of discrimination suffered by herself and friends, she cried out against a condition that forces the finest of her race to associate with "white trash".

Answering the softvoiced question, "will this law eliminate discrimination," Mrs. Peratrovich admitted that it would not; but she queried in rebuttal, "do your laws against larceny and even murder prevent those crimes?" No law will eliminate crimes, but at least you as legislators can assert to the world that you recognize the evil of the present situation and speak your intent to help us overcome discrimination, she said.

ANS President Hits at Bill Opposition

Declaring their opposition to the law, unless it is amended, Senators Scott, Whaley, Collins, and Shattuck spoke their feelings on the issue during the two hours of discussions while Senators Walker and Cochran held forth in favor of the law. Senator Joe Green was chairman of the committee of the whole hearing.

Senator Allen Shattuck opened the discussion by repeating a statement he declared he had already made to Roy Peratrovich, Grand President of ANS. "This bill will aggravate rather than allay the little feeling that now exists" he stated "Our Native cultures have 10 centuries of white civilization to encompass in a few decades. I believe that considerable progress has already been made, particularly in the last 50 years," Senator Shattuck declared.

ANS President Talks

Peratrovich was then asked to the stand by Senator N.R. Walker and, following questions that established his education,

background and right to speak for the Indians, Peratrovich was invited to express his views on the questions before the Senate.

He pointed out that Governor Ernest Gruening, in his report to the Secretary of the Interior, as well as in his message to the legislature, had recognized the existence of discrimination. He quoted the plank adopted by the Democratic party at its Fairbanks Convention, which favor action on the Natives behalf. Reading the names of the members of the Committee that helped to frame that plank, he pointed out that among them were members of the present Senate body.

"Only an Indian can know how it feels to be discriminated against." Peratrovich said, "either you are for discrimination or you are against it," accordingly as you vote on this bill, he added.

#### Has Amendment

Declaring that he had an amendment to purpose to the measure, Senator Frank Whaley read a lengthy prepared address to the Assembly, in which he labelled the measure a "lawyer's dream" and a natural in creating hard feelings between the whites and Natives." He stated his flying experience in many parts of Alaska as authority behind the opinion he had reached.

Declaring himself "personally assailed" by Senator Whaley in his remarks, Senator O.D. Cochran raised his voice for the bill, offering instances of discrimination which came, he declared, from a list of similar occurances in his own knowledge that would occupy the full afternoon to relate. As in his speech on the matter before the House, Senator Cochran made use of a theater in Nome as a prime example of an establishment where discrimination is practiced.

Senator Walker supported Senator Cochran's views, declaring that he knew of no instance where a Native died from a broken heart, but adding that he did know of situations where discrimination had forced Indian women into living lives "worse than death."

#### Scott Talks

Senator Tolbert Scott, in one of his rare participations in debates, spoke from the heart his feelings that the bill, as it stood, would not accomplish the purpose intended. "Mixed breeds are the source of the trouble. It is they who wish to associate with the whites. "It would have been far better had the Eskimos put up signs "no whites allowed", he said. He stated his belief that the issue was being raised to create political capitol for

some legislators and concluded that "white women have done their part" in keeping the races distinct. If white man had done as well, there would be no racial feelings in Alaska.

#### Liquor Problems

Speaking from his long experience among the Eskimo people in particular, Senator Grenold Collins furnished a sincere and authoritative voice in opposition to the bill. He supported Senator Scott's argument regarding mixed breeds by citing the well-behavior of the Eskimos of St. Lawrence Island. Where white men have not worked their evil. "Eskimos are not an inferior race", he stated, but they are an individual race". The pure Eskimos are proud of their origin and are aware that harm comes to them from mixing with whites. It is the mixed breed who is not accepted by either race who causes the problem. Declaring I believe in racial pride and do not think this bill will do other than arouse bitterness, Senator Collins lashed out at the sale of liquor to natives, as the root of trouble.

A motion to report progress, offered by Senator Walker, was approved, following the testimony of Mrs. Peratrovich, which terminated discussion.