



Alaska State Legislature

1974

Source:

SCR 42

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 42

Paying tribute to the memory of Robert L. Thomas.

BE IT RESOLVED

BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the death of Robert L. Thomas, Deputy Commissioner of Education, in the midst of a legislative session where his counsel on matters of public education policy and finance was much sought after and heavily relied on, profoundly saddens his friends among the membership of the Alaska Legislature; and

WHEREAS in the drafting and presentation of legislation, a process in which Bob Thomas was so intimately involved on behalf of the Department of Education during each legislative session, there was no more constructive team from an executive department that was easier to work with than that led by Bob Thomas; even in disagreement with a certain policy objective, invariably assistance would be provided in the preparation of a needed bill or resolution; and, ultimately, as credible negotiators, there was always a possible compromise -- these sorely needed skills will be much missed in the absence of Bob Thomas; and

WHEREAS, a native of Oregon, he earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in mathematics and general studies at the University of Oregon, and a second Master's degree in general science at Oregon State University, and taught math, science and psychology in Lebanon High School, Lebanon, Oregon, before coming to Alaska to accept a position with the Department of Education; although he and his beloved wife, Doris, intended to stay but two years, they have remained 13; and

WHEREAS Bob Thomas felt deeply about his community and country, serving them loyally and well as a member of the Assembly

of the City and Borough of Juneau and as an officer in the Alaska National Guard, holding the rank of Lieutenant Colonel;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that in expressing its deep sorrow over the passing of a valued advisor and friend, the members of the legislature note with particular pride the distinguished contribution Robert L. Thomas has made in the creation, operation and administration of a sound, forward-looking system of public education in Alaska; the Juneau-Douglas community is among the most progressive of the cities of Alaska because of his service to it, and Bob Thomas's loyal devotion to Alaska, to Juneau, to his profession and to his family will be both long remembered and not easily replaced.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to his wife, Doris, and to his children.