



# Alaska State Legislature

1975

Source:

HCR 17

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

Paying tribute to the memory of Dr. Orin R. Stratton.

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### BE IT RESOLVED

#### BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the members of the Alaska Legislature pause to note the death, August 20, 1974, of one of Alaska's most distinguished educational leaders, Dr. Orin R. Stratton, from 1966 - 1973, President of Sheldon Jackson College -- Alaska's oldest institution of higher education; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Whitworth College and Teachers College at Columbia University where he earned a doctorate in education, Orin Stratton completed his seminary training at San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, California, held a pastorate at the United Presbyterian Church in Fairview, New Jersey, then spent eight years at Hastings College, Nebraska, where he served first as dean of students and professor of psychology, later as head of the psychology department; and

WHEREAS, after Orin Stratton's arrival in Sitka to accept the Presidency of Sheldon Jackson College, he focused on the development of the college's program, by expanding its efforts in fisheries, forestry and aviation; the college became a center for development of courses and materials in the Tlingit language and culture; later its law enforcement program was enhanced by the location of Alaska's Trooper Academy there; and

WHEREAS under Orin Stratton's leadership a new era began for higher education in Sitka when Sheldon Jackson College and the Sitka Community College were linked in a pioneering higher education consortium: the University of Alaska-affiliated college and the private college combined to encourage cross-registration

of students and the utilization of SJC's facilities by community college faculties and programs for all Sitkans; and

WHEREAS Orin Stratton saw to it that Sheldon Jackson reached out to surrounding villages in Southeastern Alaska with courses for teacher aides; Dr. Stratton, himself, was one of those who flew regularly to Kake, Angoon, Hoonah, Craig and Petersburg to teach; and

WHEREAS, during his near seven-year Presidency, enrollment at Sheldon Jackson doubled, close ties with Alaska Methodist University were developed permitting the offering of upper division courses and allowing a summer school to flourish; while maintaining a financial solvency that private schools and colleges elsewhere in the nation well might envy, SJC renovated older buildings and culminated its building program with a new administration building and long-desired library, opened in 1974 and fittingly named the Orin and Betty Stratton Library;

BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Alaska State Legislature in expressing their sympathy and that of the people of Alaska to the Stratton family in the time of their bereavement honor the late Orin R. Stratton for his inspired stewardship as President of Sheldon Jackson College, for rekindling the spirit and strength of private higher education in this state at a time of great trial for private education everywhere; he led SJC through transition from parochial agent to educational independence while maintaining a spiritual covenant with the Presbyterian Church; despite the administrative responsibilities imposed today on a college president, he never lost his zest for his chosen academic discipline, psychology, or for the student contact gained through the classroom experience; these are Orin Stratton's living monuments in Alaska and throughout the Pacific Northwest.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Mrs. Betty Stratton, to their sons, and to the President of Sheldon Jackson College.