



# Alaska State Legislature

1975

Source:

SCR 8

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

Paying tribute to the memory of William A. "Bill" O'Neill.

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### BE IT RESOLVED

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

WHEREAS all Alaskans who knew or worked with William A. "Bill" O'Neill mourn the passing of this distinguished mining engineer and civic leader; and

WHEREAS, born November 5, 1907, in Seattle, he knew the college campus of the University of Alaska, having graduated from the then Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines in 1934, and since became an internationally recognized mining consultant and head of his own firm in Anchorage; he died October 20, 1974, in Monrovia, Liberia, where he was serving as a consultant to African Mining Partners; and

WHEREAS, during Bill O'Neill's 25-year tenure as a Regent of the University, a period of service that spanned the terms of four University presidents, the University of Alaska expanded from a single campus at Fairbanks with a student body of a few hundred to a statewide system with an enrollment of more than 10,000 students studying at eight community colleges and two senior colleges that have brought higher education to the people of Alaska across the state, as well as numerous extension centers and research institutes of national reputation; and

WHEREAS the physical expansion of the University of Alaska statewide, the growing eminence of its faculty, their public service and research accomplishments have been due in no small measure to the enthusiasm and leadership exhibited by Bill O'Neill in expanding and strengthening the University's role in higher education in Alaska; in recognition of this achievement,

he was honored by his colleagues by election to and service as President of the Board of Regents from 1968 until his retirement from the board in 1973; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his long service to the state as a Regent of the University, he was Vice-Chairman of the Anchorage Port Commission;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the members, in extending their deepest sympathy to his family, note the devotion of William A. "Bill" O'Neill as a husband, father, and brother; and pay tribute to his memory by calling attention to his record of exceptional, meritorious public service which represented a dedication seldom equaled in the annals of Alaska civic life.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to his widow, Mrs. Viola O'Neill; to his children, William L. O'Neill of San Diego, Mrs. Richard Wien of Fairbanks, Miss Maureen O'Neill of Anchorage; to his brothers, Patrick O'Neill of New Canaan, Connecticut, Philip O'Neill of Sutton, Michael O'Neill of Wasilla, and Francis O'Neill of San Diego; and to his sisters, Mrs. William Imlach of Anchorage, Mrs. Woody Altister of Seattle, Mrs. Norm Hartung of Palmer, and Mrs. Chester Clark of Ontario, Oregon.