



Alaska State Legislature

1976

Source:

HCR 149

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 149

Congratulating Lowell Thomas, Sr., for his contribution to Alaska during 46 years of news broadcasting.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS Lowell Thomas, Sr., father of this state's Lieutenant Governor and one of Alaska's greatest friends, recently announced that on Friday, May 14, he would end his nightly radio newscasts; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 1930, Lowell Thomas, Sr., already famous as an explorer, foreign correspondent, author and lecturer, made the world's first network newscast; that 46-year span makes the Thomas news broadcasts the longest running program in radio history; and

WHEREAS, a noted film producer, he launched "Cinerama," the first of the wide-screen motion picture techniques which revolutionized that industry; and

WHEREAS, since an early age and throughout his career, the "pioneer spirit" of the "Great Land" has held a special fascination for Lowell Thomas:

-- he has been visiting the state regularly since 1912 when he traveled from Skagway to Fairbanks by dog team;

-- he made the first trip by automobile over the then new Richardson Highway between Valdez and Fairbanks;

-- during his college years, before World War I, he gave illustrated lectures on Alaska in the lower 48 states;

-- he made a television documentary on Alaska with Peter

Freuchen, Bernt Balchen, and Admiral Donald MacMillan; in 1957, he flew over the North Pole from Alaska to Greenland;

-- in 1958 he made another television documentary on Alaska, just before its admission as the 49th state;

-- in 1964, following the Good Friday Earthquake, he conducted radio broadcasts to raise funds for the relief of earthquake victims in Alaska;

-- he has declared in a recent article that Glacier Bay National Monument is on his personal list of the "Seven Wonders of the World"; and

WHEREAS, in advising listeners of his impending "retirement" from radio newscasting, Lowell Thomas, Sr., now 84, indicated that his television series, "Lowell Thomas Remembers," an autobiography, and a forthcoming biography of General Jimmy Doolittle would keep him well-occupied until age 90;

BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Alaska State Legislature offer their congratulations to Lowell Thomas, Sr., America's preeminent broadcast journalist, not only for his contribution to that profession but also, most importantly, for his service to the Nation and to the State of Alaska; he is clearly one of Alaska's most enthusiastic exponents, and as such he has won the admiration and respect of every Alaskan; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that in tribute to his personal and professional achievements, in recognition of his association with this state for more than six decades, and in appreciation for his generous assistance to us in time of need, Lowell Thomas, Sr., is hereby designated an honorary resident of Alaska; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Alaska State Legislature wish Lowell Thomas, Sr., success in his future endeavors which hardly sound like "retirement"!

A COPY of this resolution shall be sent to Lowell Thomas, Sr.