



Alaska State Legislature

1976

Source:

SCR 57

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 57

Paying tribute to the memory of Dr. Ernest N. Patty.

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

WHEREAS, as this Second Session of the Ninth Alaska Legislature opened, its members learned of the passing, January 12 in Seattle, of one of the state's most noted educators and citizens, Dr. Ernest N. Patty, President-emeritus of the University of Alaska and one of the nation's leading authorities on mining engineering; and

WHEREAS, a native of Oregon, Dr. Patty came to this state in 1922; he was one of the University of Alaska's six original faculty members; as professor of geology and mineralogy when the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines opened that year in Fairbanks, he organized the School of Mines, became its dean and helped establish its nationwide reputation among the country's mining schools; he was instrumental in elevating the college to university status in 1935; Ernest N. Patty became the University of Alaska's third president, serving from 1953 until his retirement in 1960; the physical education building on the Fairbanks campus, Patty Gymnasium, was named in his honor; these years of stewardship at the University he faithfully recorded in his autobiographical, "North Country Challenge;" and

WHEREAS, in addition to his academic activities, Dr. Patty was general manager of the McRae-Patty mining interests, the third largest gold dredging operation in Alaska and pioneered in the development of mining techniques in the North; in recognition of his professional achievements, he was elected the first president of the Alaska Miners Association and was a member of the Explorers Club of New York and the Rainier Club of Seattle;

BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Alaska Legislature, in expressing their sympathy to the family of Ernest N. Patty, pause to pay tribute to Dr. Patty's lifelong commitment to the development of Alaska's state university system over the course of four decades in Alaska and to note his distinguished contribution to the science of mining engineering.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to his widow, Virginia, and to his sons, Stanton of Seattle and Dale of Shreveport, Louisiana.