

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1977

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

HCR 1

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Honoring the memory of Ralph J. Rivers.

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

WHEREAS in 1976 Alaskans witnessed the passing of the last of their original statehood delegation in Congress through the death of the Honorable Ralph J. Rivers; and

WHEREAS Ralph J. Rivers first came to Alaska at the age of three in 1906 and was raised at Flat.

After completing his education in Washington, he returned full time to Alaska in 1931 where he entered the practice of law in Fairbanks.

Thereafter he mixed the active practice of law with a remarkable record of public service:

U.S. District Attorney, Fourth Division 1933
Attorney General, Territory of Alaska 1945-49
Mayor of Fairbanks 1952-54
Senator, Territorial Legislature 1955-57
Delegate, Alaska Constitutional Convention 1955-56
Alaska-Tennessee Plan Representative to the Congress,
1956-58, to work with "Senators" William A. Egan
and Ernest Gruening and Delegate E. L. Bartlett
in the fight for statehood in Congress
First U.S. Representative from Alaska in Congress
1959-1967.

Upon his retirement from public life Ralph Rivers returned to his law practice and after his full retirement in 1974 he received an honorary doctor of law degree from the University of Alaska for his

"long and distinguished service on behalf of his fellow Alaskans for his exceptional contributions to the cause of statehood".

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Legislature, by the adoption of this resolution, honors the memory of a distinguished public servant and Alaskan who left an enviable record of service to the Territory and State of Alaska. The Legislature, for itself and in the name of the people of Alaska, extends its condolences and best wishes to Martha W. Rivers and the other members of the family on their personal loss.