

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1977

Source

Legislative  
Resolve No.

HCR 37

34



Honoring the memory of William Paul, Sr.

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

The death of a distinguished former Alaskan, William L. Paul, Sr., was announced in Seattle this week.

William Paul was a man whose work was characterized by dedication, energy, controversy, and productivity. He devoted most of his efforts towards the recognition of the rights and needs of Alaska's indigenous population and as his life closed at age 91 he was still working. Of Tlingit and Caucasian extraction, he was in the forefront of the successful fight for Congressional recognition of Indian citizenship in 1924. He was the first Indian elected to the Alaska Territorial Legislature and served in the 1925 and 1927 sessions. He applied his talents as an attorney to the early and later efforts of the Native citizens of Alaska to set aside discriminatory laws, provide for equal education rights, and settle the rights of Natives to their ancestral lands. One of the founders of the Tlingit-Haida Central Council and the Alaska Native Brotherhood, he later became president of the latter organization and was writing a history of the ANB at the time of his death.

The Alaska State Legislature is proud to salute the life of accomplishment of this great contributor to Alaskan history and progress and extends its sincerest condolences to the members of the Paul family on the occasion of their loss.