

**STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE**

**2013**

**Source**  
CSHJR 11(MLV)

**Legislative  
Resolve No.**  
10



Commemorating the 30th anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's address to the nation concerning the Strategic Defense Initiative, recognizing the strategic importance of Alaska in the missile interceptor defense system, and urging the United States to deploy the number of ground-based interceptors originally intended at Fort Greely.

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

**WHEREAS**, on March 23, 1983, President Ronald Reagan delivered a televised address to the nation regarding the nuclear and ballistic missile threat posed by the Soviet Union and appealed to the American people to support the development of new technologies to counter this threat; and

**WHEREAS** March 23, 2013, marks the 30th anniversary of this landmark address; and

**WHEREAS** President Reagan believed the nation's security to be based on preparedness and a national willingness to meet all threats and supported military strength as a means of deterring aggression and preserving peace; and

**WHEREAS** President Reagan envisioned a defensive, non-nuclear capability to

intercept and destroy strategic nuclear missiles before the missiles could reach the United States or allies of the United States; and

**WHEREAS** President Reagan envisioned the missile defense system as a way to significantly reduce incentives an adversary might have to threaten or attack the United States or an ally of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, through the efforts of dedicated Americans and allies who have championed the pursuit of peace through strength and who have surmounted the immense technical hurdles to develop ballistic missile defense technologies and systems to protect our nation, our allies, and our vital overseas interests, President Reagan's vision has been realized; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska possesses abundant natural assets, including energy, minerals, and human resources, vital to the prosperity and national security of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1997, the Alaska State Legislature requested President Clinton to include Alaska and Hawaii in every national intelligence estimate of missile threats to the United States and urged the President to ensure that Alaska be protected from and be able to defend against missile attacks with the same degree of assurance provided to all other states; and

**WHEREAS** the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense System and its effective Ground-Based Interceptor missiles currently deployed at Fort Greely, Alaska, and Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, together with the Missile Defense Integration and Operations Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, function as key components of the integrated United States Ballistic Missile Defense System; and

**WHEREAS** the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense System serves to defend the United States, including Hawaii and Alaska, against long-range ballistic missiles; and

**WHEREAS** the Alaska National Guard's 49th Missile Defense Battalion, as the first line of defense in the missile interceptor defense system, protects the nation against missile attacks from North Korea and other entities; and

**WHEREAS** the nation's missile defenses were successfully put on alert in response to the July 2006, December 2012, and other North Korean missile launches; and

**WHEREAS** our nation's integrated ballistic missile defense system represents a key element of our national defense, provides a vital deterrent against aggression, and preserves

freedom and peace;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the unique vision and tireless efforts of President Ronald Reagan to promote peace and security; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the immense value of the research, development, and investment inspired by President Reagan in his March 23, 1983, appeal to the American people to change the course of human history by pursuing the robust capabilities necessary to protect and preserve our way of life; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes and expresses support for President Reagan's refusal to accept the vulnerability of the United States to missile attack, his unfailing commitment to ensuring the United States would achieve its national security and foreign policy goals from a position of strength, and his firm belief that the United States would never be secure if the nation's enemies were able to attack from space; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the strategic role Alaska and Alaskans play in the missile interceptor defense system as a first line of defense, and especially the role played by the Alaska National Guard's 49th Missile Defense Battalion; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature commemorates the 30th anniversary of President Reagan's address to the nation on the subject of the Strategic Defense Initiative; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State legislature urges the United States to deploy the number of ground-based interceptors originally intended at Fort Greely and to complete research, development, and deployment of complementary theater-based missile defenses and to deploy the strategic ground, sea, air, and space-based systems envisioned by President Reagan in his March 23, 1983, address to deter current missile threats.

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; all other members of the 113th United States Congress; the presiding officers of the legislatures for each of the other 49 states; General Charles H. Jacoby, Jr., Commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command; and Major General

Thomas Katkus, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of military and veterans' affairs.