

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI

Introduced: 2/5/14

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting the American Indian Veterans Memorial Initiative to construct an Alaska**
2 **Native, American Indian, and Native Hawaiian veterans' monument in our nation's**
3 **capital.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** Native Americans, including American Indians, Alaska Natives, and
6 Native Hawaiians, have established a distinguished legacy within every branch of the armed
7 forces of the United States; and

8 **WHEREAS** Native Americans have fought in every war and conflict of the United
9 States since the Revolutionary War; and

10 **WHEREAS** more than 12,000 Native Americans volunteered to serve in World War
11 I, despite denial of American citizenship; and

12 **WHEREAS** the adaptation of indigenous languages by Native American code talkers
13 was fundamental for strategic communications by the United States and their allies during
14 World War I and World War II; and

15 **WHEREAS** 42,000 Native Americans served in the Vietnam Conflict, 90 percent of

1 whom enlisted voluntarily; and

2 **WHEREAS** 32 Native Americans have been awarded the Congressional Medal of
3 Honor; and

4 **WHEREAS** the population of living Native American veterans exceeds 151,000
5 across the country, including 5,500 Alaska Natives; and

6 **WHEREAS** the patriotism, sacrifice, and dedication to service exhibited by this
7 population is not formally recognized in our nation's capital;

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the American Indian
9 Veterans Memorial Initiative to construct an Alaska Native, American Indian, and Native
10 Hawaiian veterans' monument in our nation's capital.

11 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
12 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
13 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of
14 Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; Stephen D.
15 Bowers, Project Director, American Indian Veterans Memorial Initiative; and the Honorable
16 Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
17 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.