

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLETT

Introduced: 1/21/14

Referred:

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming March 27, 2014, as Good Friday Earthquake Remembrance Day.**

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

3 **WHEREAS**, 50 years ago, on March 27, 1964, a 9.2 magnitude earthquake known as
4 the Good Friday Earthquake rocked a 50,000 square-mile area of Southcentral Alaska; and

5 **WHEREAS** the Good Friday Earthquake was the largest earthquake in the history of
6 North America; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Good Friday Earthquake caused a tragic loss of life, caused
8 remarkable devastation, leveled entire communities, and endangered thousands of Alaskans;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS** Governor William A. Egan immediately activated the Alaska Army
11 National Guard and the Alaska Air National Guard to deliver emergency supplies and medical
12 care to affected Southcentral communities; and

13 **WHEREAS** firefighters, police officers, Alaska state troopers, members of the United
14 States Army Corps of Engineers, medics, doctors, nurses, municipal workers, and many other
15 emergency professionals selflessly served the state and their fellow Alaskans when they were
16 needed most; and

1 **WHEREAS**, after the earthquake, the United States Army Corps of Engineers
2 launched "Operation Helping Hand," a successful relief effort to restore essential roads,
3 power, fuel, water, and communications systems before the onset of winter; and

4 **WHEREAS** members of the Alaska Army National Guard and the Alaska Air
5 National Guard provided invaluable assistance with security following the earthquake,
6 allowing emergency rescue and disaster relief personnel to assist Alaskans with the task of
7 recovering from the disaster; and

8 **WHEREAS** Major General Thomas P. Carroll, who was the adjutant general of the
9 Alaska National Guard at the time, was killed April 27, 1964, in an airplane crash after
10 accompanying Governor William A. Egan to Valdez to survey the damage caused by the
11 earthquake; also killed in the crash were the pilot, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Norris, Sr., the
12 co-pilot, Major James Rowe, and the flight engineer, Technical Sergeant Kenneth W. Ayers;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, following the earthquake, thousands of Alaskans from all walks of life
15 became first responders by helping to locate and treat injured Alaskans; and

16 **WHEREAS** citizens immediately began the process of rebuilding devastated
17 communities; and

18 **WHEREAS** March 27, 2014, will mark the 50th anniversary of the Good Friday
19 Earthquake;

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature remembers, recognizes, and
21 honors the hard work and exemplary sacrifice of the thousands of military and national guard
22 members, first responders, and citizens who came to the aid of Alaskans in the aftermath of
23 the Good Friday Earthquake; and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims March 27,
25 2014, as Good Friday Earthquake Remembrance Day.