

**STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE**

**2012**

**Source**  
HCS SCR 11(STA)

**Legislative  
Resolve No.**  
42



Designating August 18, 2012, as Walter J. Hickel Day of the Arctic.

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

**WHEREAS** Walter J. Hickel worked in service to the state and the peoples of the Arctic in the interest of the public good; and

**WHEREAS** he served as the Governor of Alaska twice, from 1966 - 1969 and 1990 - 1994, and as United States Secretary of the Interior under President Nixon from 1969 - 1970; and

**WHEREAS**, during the fight for statehood, he played a major role in winning the battle for a resource base for the state that included 103,000,000 acres of land; and

**WHEREAS**, as the state's second governor, he successfully pushed to open Prudhoe Bay to oil development; and

**WHEREAS**, as United States Secretary of the Interior, Hickel oversaw the permitting process for the Trans Alaska Pipeline and helped gain the votes in the United States Congress to authorize its construction, played a key role in the settlement of Alaska Native land claims, advocated nationally for the 200-mile limit to protect Alaska's fisheries, and placed all eight species of great whales on the endangered species list; and

**WHEREAS**, in his second term as governor, he was the architect of a \$1,000,000,000 universal legal settlement of the damages caused by the Exxon Valdez disaster, assisted in establishing the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward, pushed for community development quotas, and took the problem of wasteful bycatch fishing practices to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Earth Summit, in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, where he was the only United States governor asked to speak; and

**WHEREAS**, in his later years, Hickel co-founded Commonwealth North with Governor William A. Egan, co-founded the Northern Forum, and founded the Institute of the North, and those organizations continue to promote Alaska public policy issues, highlight the state's role as an Arctic state, and connect the state to others on the national and international stages; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1973, Readers Digest published his article, "The Day of the Arctic has Come," and he spent the rest of his life advocating for "the reality, the richness, and the responsibility of the North"; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1988, he participated in the first Friendship Flight between Alaska and the Russian Far East; and

**WHEREAS** he was the first non-Russian appointed to the board of the Non-commercial Partnership of the Coordination of the Northern Sea Route Usages, and he was the first non-Russian to speak to Vladimir Putin's People's Chamber, which was established to address some of Russia's most challenging problems; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his life, he advocated for local control and local responsibility for the land and natural resources of the state; and

**WHEREAS** his concept of Alaska as an Owner State has shaped the thinking of, and inspired, peoples around the world who live on rich and environmentally sensitive land; and

**WHEREAS** he died May 7, 2010, at 90 years of age and, at his request, was buried standing up so he could, if necessary, "come out fighting" for Alaska, as he had always done; and

**WHEREAS** August 18 is the day of his birth;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes and honors Walter J. Hickel by designating August 18, 2012, as Walter J. Hickel Day of the Arctic, to recognize his service to his country, to Alaska, to the peoples of the North, and to the world.