

**STATE OF ALASKA
SENATE**

2018

Source
SR 7

**Senate
Resolve No.**
8



Dedicating the fourth floor Senate conference room of the Alaska State Capitol to the late Senate President Jan Faiks.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS the Alaska State Senate joins family, friends, and fellow Alaskans in celebrating the life and legacy of Senator Jan Faiks; and

WHEREAS Senator Faiks was the first woman in the history of the United States to be elected presiding officer of a state legislative body, serving as Senate President in 1987 and 1988; and

WHEREAS, looking far ahead into the state's future, Senator Faiks worked among a key group of legislators to help create the constitutional budget reserve fund; and

WHEREAS, among her many accomplishments, Senator Faiks is credited with bringing polish to the legislature by instituting a dress code and promoting other rules of decorum; and

WHEREAS Jan Faiks, who was born on Long Island, New York, on November 17, 1945, moved to Alaska and earned her master's degree in counseling psychology from the University of Alaska Anchorage, before using those acquired skills as both a counselor and a

teacher in the Anchorage School District from 1968 to 1978; and

WHEREAS, before running for elective office, Jan helped to organize the Anchorage Women's Club Free Committee, a grassroots political advocacy effort that sought to improve the state legislative process, uniform rules, and conference committee protocols; recommendations made by the group were later adopted by the Alaska State Legislature; and

WHEREAS Senator Faiks was first elected to the Alaska State Senate in 1982 and served two terms representing the Anchorage Hillside; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Jan Faiks was diagnosed with brain cancer, and, upon her passing at her home on Amelia Island, Florida, on April 10, 2017, the state lost a hard-working and dedicated Alaskan; and

WHEREAS Senator Faiks was a pioneer for women in politics who made her mark on the state's history; and

WHEREAS we mourn her passing;

BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Senate of the Thirtieth Alaska State Legislature that the fourth floor Senate conference room, currently room 431 of the Alaska State Capitol, be dedicated to Senator Jan Faiks, the first woman in the history of the United States to be elected presiding officer of a state legislative body; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that a bronze plaque shall be placed on or near the door of the room, bearing the following inscription celebrating Senator Faiks' legislative achievements, dedication, and service:

THE JAN FAIKS CONFERENCE ROOM

The Jan Faiks Conference Room memorializes the dedication and service of Jan Faiks, who served as a member of the Alaska State Senate during the Thirteenth through Sixteenth Alaska State Legislatures. The first woman in the history of the United States to be elected presiding officer of a state legislative body, Senator Faiks served as Senate President in 1987 and 1988. She was committed to the people of Alaska and looked far ahead into the state's future, working among a key group of legislators to help create the constitutional budget reserve fund. She is also credited with bringing polish to the legislature by instituting a dress code and promoting other rules of decorum. Senator Faiks was a pioneer for women in politics who made her

mark on Alaska's history.

A **COPY** of this resolution shall be presented to the family of the late Senator Jan Faiks.