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CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: 1-14-97

Submitted by: Assemblymembers Abney, Begich, Bell, Carlson, Clementson, Kendall, Meyer, Murdy, Von Gemmingen, Wohlforth, and Wuerch

Prepared by: Assembly Policy and Budget

For reading: January 14, 1997

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 97-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY HONORING ROBERT ATWOOD AND REMEMBERING HIS CONTRIBUTIONS IN SHAPING THE HISTORY OF ANCHORAGE AND ALASKA

WHEREAS, in 1935, Robert Atwood arrived in Anchorage with the intent of staying only a few years; and

WHEREAS, Robert Atwood became publisher of the Anchorage Daily Times, and with his tremendous energy and assistance from his wife, Evangeline, the newspaper grew into the most powerful single voice in the Alaska territory, effectively advocating a pro-development, pro-statehood, and pro-military agenda; and

WHEREAS, prior to World War II, it was Robert Atwood's relentless advocacy which prompted the federal government to commit to a large, long-term operation in Alaska, especially in Anchorage - with the construction of the original Fort Richardson (now Elmendorf AFB) and the federal Native hospital; and

WHEREAS, in 1941, Robert Atwood helped organize the original Anchorage Rotary Club and served as president in 1944-1945; he also served as president of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce in 1943 and 1947, and served many years as chairman of the military-civilian advisory board; and

WHEREAS, Robert Atwood headed the Alaska Statehood Commission for 12 years and his tireless efforts resulted in the approval of the 1946 statehood referendum by territorial residents and the eventual approval by the United States Congress and President Dwight Eisenhower; and

WHEREAS, after the 1964 earthquake, Robert Atwood, who lost his home and almost his life, rallied Anchorage residents to rebuild bigger and better than ever; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Robert Atwood and his family supported a variety of civic and cultural events, often through the Atwood Foundation; and as a trustee of Alaska Pacific University, he funded scholarships and major renovations; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 1997, at the age of 89, Robert Atwood passed away in his sleep at home and the Municipality of Anchorage and the State of Alaska lost a great journalist, businessman, civic leader, and friend.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly resolves:

That, on behalf of all Anchorage citizens, the Assembly honors


**Robert Atwood**

for his contributions in shaping the history of Anchorage and Alaska

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Municipal Assembly this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1997.

  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
Municipal Clerk