

1 TEXT OF SENATE RESOLUTION 617, 111TH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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3 Title: Relative to the death of the Honorable Theodore "Ted" Fulton Stevens, former Senator for
4 the State of Alaska.
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6 Whereas Theodore "Ted" Fulton Stevens, who began serving in the Senate 9 years after Alaska
7 was admitted to Statehood, represented the people of the State of Alaska with distinction in
8 the Senate for over 40 years from 1968 to 2009 and played a significant role in the
9 transformation of the State of Alaska from an impoverished territory to a full-fledged State
10 through the assistance he provided in building energy facilities, hospitals and clinics, roads,
11 docks, airports, water and sewer facilities, schools, and other community facilities in the
12 State of Alaska, which earned him recognition as "Alaskan of the Century" from the Alaska
13 Legislature in 2000;

14 Whereas Ted Stevens distinguished himself as a transport pilot during World War II in support
15 of the "Flying Tigers" of the United States Army Air Corps, 14th Air Force, earning 2
16 Distinguished Flying Crosses and other decorations for his skill and bravery;

17 Whereas Ted Stevens, after serving as a United States Attorney in the territory of Alaska, came
18 to Washington, District of Columbia in 1956 to serve in the Eisenhower Administration in
19 the Department of the Interior, where he was a leading force in securing the legislation that
20 led to the admission of Alaska as the 49th State on January 3, 1959, and then as Solicitor of
21 the Department of the Interior;

22 Whereas, in 1961, Ted Stevens returned to the State of Alaska and, in 1964, was elected to the
23 Alaska House of Representatives, where he was subsequently elected as Speaker pro
24 tempore and majority leader until his appointment on December 24, 1968, to the Senate to
25 fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator E.L. Bartlett;

26 Whereas Ted Stevens, the longest-serving Republican Senator in the history of the Senate,
27 served as President pro tempore of the Senate from 2003 through 2007 and as President pro
28 tempore emeritus from 2008 to 2009, and over the course of his career in the Senate, Ted
29 Stevens served as assistant Republican leader, Chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics,
30 Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration, Chairman of the Committee on
31 Governmental Affairs, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and Chairman of the
32 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation;

33 Whereas Ted Stevens worked tirelessly for the enactment of the Alaska Native Claims
34 Settlement Act, which provided for the conveyance of approximately 44,000,000 acres of
35 land in the State of Alaska to the Aleut, Eskimo, and Indian peoples and created Native
36 Corporations to secure the long-term economic, cultural, and political empowerment of the
37 Native peoples of the State of Alaska;

38 Whereas Ted Stevens was a leader in shaping the communications policies of the United States,
39 as he helped to establish the spectrum auction policy, negotiated the Telecommunications
40 Act of 1996, authored the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005, and
41 passionately advocated for the connection of rural America to the rest of the world and to
42 improve the lives of the people of the United States through the use of telemedicine and
43 distance learning;

1 Whereas Ted Stevens was a conservationist who championed the safe development of the natural
2 resources of the United States, as illustrated by his authorship of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline
3 Authorization Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act,
4 which established the 200-mile exclusive economic zone and led to a reduction in the
5 dominance of foreign fishing fleets in the fisheries of the United States, the Magnuson-
6 Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, which
7 established conservation measures designed to end overfishing, and the High Seas Driftnet
8 Fisheries Enforcement Act, which provided for the denial of entry into ports of the United
9 States and the imposition of sanctions on vessels carrying out large-scale driftnet fishing
10 beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation;

11 Whereas Ted Stevens was committed to health and fitness in his personal life and in his
12 legislative accomplishments, as illustrated by his authorship of the Ted Stevens Amateur
13 and Olympic Sports Act, his encouragement of providing equality to female athletes
14 through the enactment of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and his leadership
15 in improving physical education programs in schools through the Carol M. White Physical
16 Education Program;

17 Whereas Ted Stevens unconditionally supported the needs of the Armed Forces of the United
18 States through visits to soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and Coast Guardsmen in every
19 major military conflict and war zone where United States military personnel have been
20 assigned during his service in the Senate, including Vietnam, Kuwait, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq,
21 and Afghanistan, and in his role as Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on
22 Defense Appropriations for more than 20 years;

23 Whereas Ted Stevens was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who worked to promote
24 family-friendly policies in the Federal government; and

25 Whereas Ted Stevens was well respected for reaching across the aisle to forge bipartisan
26 alliances and enjoyed many close friendships with colleagues in both political parties and
27 with his staff, who were deeply loyal to him: Now, therefore, be it

28 Resolved, That—

29 (1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the
30 death of the Honorable Theodore “Ted” Fulton Stevens, former member of the Senate;

31 (2) the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of
32 Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the
33 deceased; and

34 (3) when the Senate adjourns today, the Senate stands adjourned as a further mark of
35 respect to the memory of the Honorable Theodore “Ted” Fulton Stevens.