

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS ELLIS, Elton, Davis, Lincoln, French, Guess

Introduced: 3/10/03

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs, State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to urging that the 2006 National Veterans Wheelchair Games be held in**
2 **Anchorage, Alaska.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** wheelchair sports play an important role in the lives of disabled people;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS** the National Veterans Wheelchair Games is a multi-event sports and
7 rehabilitation program for military service veterans who use wheelchairs for sports
8 competitions due to spinal cord injuries, amputations, or certain neurological problems; and

9 **WHEREAS** the National Veterans Wheelchair Games provide opportunities for
10 newly disabled veterans to gain sports skills and be exposed to other wheelchair athletes; and

11 **WHEREAS** the National Veterans Wheelchair Games is the largest annual wheel
12 chair sporting event in the world; and

13 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Veterans Affairs sponsored the National
14 Veterans Wheelchair Games from 1981 through 1984; and

15 **WHEREAS**, since 1985, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Paralyzed
16 Veterans of America have co-sponsored the National Veterans Wheelchair Games; and

1 **WHEREAS** the 2002 National Veterans Wheelchair Games drew more than 500
2 competing veterans; and

3 **WHEREAS** the sponsors are tentatively planning to hold the 2006 National Veterans
4 Wheelchair Games in Anchorage, Alaska; and

5 **WHEREAS** 550 to 600 disabled veterans are expected to participate in the week-long
6 2006 National Veterans Wheelchair Games events; and

7 **WHEREAS** the 2006 National Veterans Wheelchair Games are expected to bring
8 approximately 1,300 to 1,500 visitors to Anchorage in the form of participants and their
9 families alone; and

10 **WHEREAS** the 2006 National Veterans Wheelchair Games are anticipated to bring
11 millions of dollars into Alaska's economy over the week-long course of the games;

12 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges Anthony J. Principi,
13 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Joseph L. Fox, Sr., President of the Paralyzed Veterans of
14 America to hold the 2006 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Anchorage, Alaska.

15 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Anthony Principi, United
16 States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to Joseph L. Fox, Sr., President, Paralyzed Veterans of
17 America; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S.
18 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
19 delegation in Congress.