

Presented by: Mayor & Assembly  
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Drafted by: E.R. & G.L.S.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 1096

A RESOLUTION HONORING BELLE SIMPSON, A JUNEAU PIONEER LONG ACTIVE IN JUNEAU'S BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LIFE, ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY ON MARCH 27, 1985.

WHEREAS, Belle Simpson, the youngest of nine children born to Rueben and Anna Goldstein, lived with her parents over their family store on South Franklin Street and grew from infancy with the town of Juneau when it had a population of only a few hundred people, and

WHEREAS, Belle Simpson attended the first private school in Juneau, and later, when the public school system was established, she attended through high school, playing on the girl's basketball team, and

WHEREAS, at 18, Belle Simpson, with her brother Isadore, headed north to the Iditarod gold strike. For the next six years she worked with her brother, traveling the Yukon and Kuskokwin Rivers on business and recreational trips, and

WHEREAS, her marriage to Robert Simpson in 1912 produced two children, Robert W. and Annabelle, who were born in Juneau, and

WHEREAS, her husband traveled as an optometrist to remote villages where he often traded his services for Indian and Eskimo artifacts, and

WHEREAS, Belle Simpson saw in the growing tourist trade the opportunity to market the artifacts her husband brought back to Juneau, and in the 1920's she opened the Nugget Shop on South Franklin Street within a block of the docks where travelers landed, and

WHEREAS, in 1947 Belle Simpson moved the Nugget Shop to the newly constructed Simpson Building on Seward Street, a building designed for the extensive Simpson collection which included many established Alaskan artists, and

WHEREAS, her husband having died in 1964, Belle Simpson sold the Nugget Shop in 1970 and retired from the daily routine of managing the business, although she continued to manage her other property and investments, and

WHEREAS, Belle Simpson, a strong advocate for her hometown and Alaska, never hesitated to invest in her community and in Alaska. She was one of the primary sponsors of Sydney Laurence, owning over two-thirds of his paintings including his major work, "Mt. McKinley." For years she has been a major sponsor of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the Juneau Teen-Age Club. She remains a member of the Soroptimist, the Business and Professional Women and the Pioneers of Alaska, and

WHEREAS, although she now lives in Seattle Belle Simpson calls Juneau home;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

That March 27, 1985 is declared BELLE SIMPSON RECOGNITION DAY in Juneau and that congratulations and best wishes of the assembly and the people of Juneau are extended to this outstanding Juneau pioneer on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Adopted this 18th day of March , 1985.

  
Mayor

Attest:

  
Clerk