

## A Resolution to Honor “Mr. Republican” Jack Coghill

**Whereas**, Jack was a born Alaskan. True in spirit and in action. While he did not venture far from his beloved Nenana, his impact was felt around the State.

**Whereas**, Jack entered politics in 1948 when he joined the Nenana School Board. He went on to serve as Mayor of Nenana for 23 years. His political career also had him serving as a Territorial House representative in 1952 and a State Senator in 1960.

**Whereas**, Jack was re-elected to serve as State Senator in 1984 and became Lt. Governor in 1990 under the Alaska Independence Party.

**Whereas**, one of his greatest opportunities was to serve as one of the 55 Club. Jack Coghill became one of the 55 delegates who worked on and signed the Alaska Constitution at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1955. Jack was outspoken on his views on public education. “The Alaska Constitution was ratified the following year, paving the way for statehood in 1959”.

**Whereas**, Jack was known as a great storyteller. He wrote a book, "Growing Up in Alaska," detailing his early life in the territory of Alaska, his political career, the signing of the Constitution and his time in the territorial and state Legislatures. Of the notion that his stories did not always compare to his peer’s version, Jack said "All I have to say about that is that these are just my own memories as accurate as I can remember," he wrote. "If anyone has a bone to pick, then that's fine — they can write their own book!"

**Whereas**, Family was always a big part of Jack’s life. With his wife Frances and their 6 children, keeping his roots in the interior and Nenana was a priority. Coghill General Store in Nenana is still in the family after being started by Jack’s father in 1903. While Jack was a storyteller and a prankster, he gave his all to Nenana and the State of Alaska.

**Therefore, be it resolved:** that the Republican Party of Alaska Honor and its members strive to attain the status of “Mr. Republican” by giving our best to the State of Alaska.

**Be it further resolved:** that the Republican Party of Alaska offer their condolences to the family and friends of John “Jack” Coghill.

Signed by:

Glenn Clary, Chairman Alaska Republican Party

