



A Resolution Honoring the Life and Legacy of Vic Fischer

**Proposed by Immediate Past Chair Casey Steinau
Considered by the Executive Committee on November 20, 2023
Adopted by Unanimous Consent**

WHEREAS, Victor Fischer was born May 4, 1924, in Berlin, Germany; and

WHEREAS, In 1939 when Stalin's Great Purge threatened his Russian mother, Markoosha Fischer, at the request of Vic's journalist father, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt personally intervened to get Vic and his family out of the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, Vic attended the University of Wisconsin but paused his education to join the U.S. Army to fight in World War II and when his service was complete he returned to graduate followed by a Masters Degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and

WHEREAS, In 1955 at the age of 31, Vic served as a delegate to the Alaska Constitutional Convention and helped co-author the constitution which laid the foundation for the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, In 1956 Vic was elected as a Democrat to Alaska's 23rd Territorial Legislature and co-authored the repeal of the death penalty in Alaska, a cause he strongly believed given the persecution of his family and others under non-Democratic regimes; and

WHEREAS, From 1966 to 1976 Vic was the Director of the University of Alaska Institute of Social and Economic Research in Fairbanks and participated in writing the Environmental Impact Statement for the trans-Alaska pipeline; and

WHEREAS, Vic was appointed by the Kennedy Administration to serve in Washington D.C. in what is now known as Housing and Urban Development, and continued to serve under the Johnson Administration; and

WHEREAS, His service in the federal position was vital to the rebuilding of Southcentral Alaska following the devastating 1964 earthquake in one of the first instances where the U.S. Federal government took total responsibility for a natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, In 1980 he was elected as a Democrat to the Alaska State Senate serving through 1986; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 95, Vic co-chaired the recall efforts of failed Alaskan Governor Mike Dunleavy; and

WHEREAS, Vic was both a role model and tireless advocate for individual rights, responsible governance, public service, democracy, civility, and for being an engaged and responsible community member and citizen his entire life; and

WHEREAS, Vic Fischer was a consummate statesman and humanitarian who made the lives of others and their communities, especially in Alaska, richer for having known him; and

WHEREAS, Vic Fischer passed away on October 22, 2023, at the age of 99;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Democratic Party honors the life and legacy of Vic Fischer; and

THEREFORE FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Democratic Party offers our sincerest condolences to his family and his friends as well as to the many individuals in Alaska, Hawaii, and the lower 48 states that he inspired and positively impacted through his unrelenting dedication to democracy.