

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Alaska Commission on Aging

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February 23, 2009

Senator Gene Therriault
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Subject: Support for SB 45

Dear Senator Therriault:

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) encourages support for SB 45 sponsored by you and Senator Huggins to establish, maintain, and develop the Alaska veterans' cemetery fund.

Although Alaskan veterans come from all areas of the state, the only designated veteran cemeteries in Alaska are located in Anchorage and Sitka. We believe that veterans and their families would appreciate having a cemetery closer to where they live. Burial in a veterans' cemetery is a well-deserved honor and tribute to those who have served our country and their families.

Partial funding for this program would come from the sales of special request plates commemorating Alaska veterans, according to estimates provided by the bill's fiscal note, and additional funding may be required. Nevertheless, persons who joined the armed forces did not allow the personal costs of their service to dissuade their decision to serve and protect our nation.

ACoA supports SB 45 and believes that establishment of a veterans' cemetery is our responsibility and obligation to honor veterans through this final gesture of gratitude. Please feel free to contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's executive director (465-4879), should you have any questions regarding our position. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sharon Howerton-Clark
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,



Denise Daniello,
ACoA Executive Director