



Chapter 904 - Anchorage, Alaska "An Agenda of Service"

January 19, 2012

Senator Bill Weilechowski
Chairman
Senate State Affairs Committee

Senator:

As you and other members of the state legislature heard during your very successful town hall meeting this winter, many members of the service, upon separation and becoming veterans basically loose any consideration for the value of the training they have received in service and the work they have done in a number of vocations for years in the most challenging of environments – combat.

This just doesn't make much sense. We must find a way for the state through its licensing programs and/or for the University of Alaska to recognize the value of both these veterans' training and service.

Your bill, SB 150 should jump start this process, and hundreds of veterans in Alaska will thank you for this. But let me also point out that 48 other State Council Presidents of VVA have been sent this bill and based on questions to me while in DC last week, there is a great deal of interest in this idea.

This is NOT to suggest that our new veterans may not need additional training to meet licensing or other civilian standards for such. But it is to strongly suggest that this experience and training should be seriously considered by the state et al.

It is critical in this time of military downsizing and international redeployments, that we make every effort in Alaska, with the highest per capita number of veterans, to welcome, enable and embrace these men and women who have walked in hell for us.

It is an honor,

Ric Davidge
President, VVA 904
Also: National Chairman, VVA Government Affairs Committee