

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31(MLV)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Offered: 4/8/09

Referred: State Affairs

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES THOMAS, Dahlstrom, Olson, Buch, Ramras

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to pass the Honor the Written Intent of our Soldier**
2 **Heroes Act.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** federal law under 10 U.S.C. 1482(c) prohibits a service member from
5 designating a person other than a surviving spouse, blood relative, or adoptive relative to
6 direct the disposal of a service member's remains; and

7 **WHEREAS**, before deploying on a combat operation, a service member is asked to
8 designate a person who will be responsible for arranging the service member's memorial
9 services and overseeing the service member's burial arrangements; and

10 **WHEREAS** service members fill out DD Form 93, on which they express their last
11 wishes with the expectation that their last wishes regarding memorial services and burial
12 arrangements will be honored; and

13 **WHEREAS**, since 2003, more than 4,000 service members who have served
14 honorably have given their lives in combat; and

15 **WHEREAS** a service member deploying on a combat operation in defense of our
16 country should be allowed to designate any person the service member wishes to direct the

1 disposition of the service member's remains; and

2 **WHEREAS** H.R. 1633, the Honor the Written Intent of our Soldier Heroes Act, also
3 referred to as the Honor the WISH Act, amends 10 U.S.C. 1482(c) to allow a service member
4 to designate any person the service member wishes to direct the disposition of the service
5 member's remains, regardless of the designated person's relationship to the service member;

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
7 Congress to pass H.R. 1633, the "Honor the Written Intent of our Soldier Heroes Act."

8 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Pete Geren, United States
9 Secretary of the Army; the Honorable Donald C. Winter, United States Secretary of the Navy;
10 the Honorable Michael B. Donley, United States Secretary of the Air Force; the Honorable
11 Sarah Palin, Governor of Alaska; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable
12 Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
13 the Alaska delegation in Congress.