

Disabled American Veterans
Department of Alaska
Resolution #2007-01

SUPPORT FOR A POLICY FOR A STATE VETERANS CEMETARY

WHEREAS, Alaskan veterans deserve a cemetery that is located in the Interior that honors their service; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration, Alaska has more residents in the military on a per-capita basis than any other state. The Fairbanks North Star Borough has approximately 11,164 veterans; Forty percent of families in the Fairbanks area have at least one veteran in their household and sixteen percent have at least one woman in the household who is a veteran; and

WHEREAS, A State Veterans' Cemetery in the Interior would better serve needs of the veterans and their families and provide a place that is centrally located, honorable and well maintained; and

WHEREAS, The nearest officially designated military cemetery is located 350 miles North of Anchorage at Ft. Richardson; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administrations' goal is to provide eligible veterans reasonable access to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) burial options; and

WHEREAS, The VA provides a burial and funeral expense allowance of \$300 and a plot-interment allowance of \$300; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration follows a six-step process to build a new state veteran cemetery; site selection; environmental statement; land acquisition; master planning and design development; construction document preparation; and construction award and completion; and

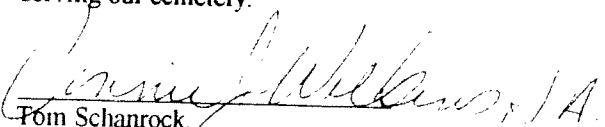
WHEREAS, The Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs can be awarded up to 100% of the development costs from the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration for an approved project; and

WHEREAS, To date, the Veterans Administration has awarded 137 grants totaling more than \$200 million to establish, expand or improve sixty-two veterans cemeteries in thirty-two states, plus Guam, Fifty-six cemeteries in twenty-one states and Guam are now operational; and

WHEREAS, According to the Division of Motor Vehicles from FY03 to FY05, \$45,040, has been generated from both the Federal and Commemorative Veterans license plate programs. The monies collected from the state license plate program currently goes into the general fund; and

WHEREAS, The construction of a state veterans cemetery in the Interior would be a great benefit to the friends and families of veterans in our community and would provide a place in the Interior for soldiers to be laid with full military funeral honors, pallbearers, rifle team, flag folding and flag presentation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Alaska, That support be given in the creation of a veterans state cemetery, as proposed in HB45, open to all veterans in the state and recognizes the veterans sacrifices while serving our cemetery.


Tom Schanrock,
Department Chairlander