



## **Senator Hollis French**

### **Sponsor Statement**

#### **CSSB 13 (FIN) – Waive Park Fees for Disabled Veterans**

Alaska's veterans served our country with pride. This legislation shows a small token of our appreciation, by providing disabled veterans who are residents of the state with free and discounted access to state park facilities.

Our parks provide all Alaskans with the opportunity to explore and recreate in Alaska's wild places. To provide these opportunities to those with disabilities, many park facilities are compliant with ADA standards. Six cabins have been modified to include features like wheelchair ramps. Two boat launches, 14 campgrounds, 10 historic sites and dozens of day use locations provide handicap accessible facilities. Regardless of disability, the system is truly open to all Alaskans.

In 1991, Alaska passed a law which created a special disabled veteran camping permit, providing disabled veterans with free camping in state park campgrounds. Senate Bill 13 extends this free benefit to boat ramps, RV facilities and day parking, and provides at least a 50 percent discount for public use cabins.

Please join me and support this meaningful piece of legislation.