

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER

### SPONSOR STATEMENT HCR 7

This resolution awards the Alaska Decoration of Honor to thirty individuals who were killed in the line of duty while honorably serving our state and country, between January 1, 2009 and February 15, 2011.

Established in 2007 in House Bill 244, the Alaska Decoration of Honor is awarded to military service members from Alaska, or those service members deployed while stationed in Alaska, who were killed in action or in support of combat action.

The Legislature must authorize the award by resolution, so the decoration can be presented to the recipients' survivors. In 2008, the Legislature awarded the medal to 171 individuals dating back to statehood. In 2009, it authorized the award for another six individuals.

Passage of HCR 7 will allow the families of these thirty individuals to receive the decoration in honor of their loved ones' sacrifice. While it is our fervent hope that all those in uniform will return home from their service safely, the reality is that a few will not. It is our obligation, and our privilege, to authorize this decoration in their honor.

I respectfully request favorable support of House Concurrent Resolution 7.

Thank you.