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A Communication From

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House Bill 247 "Alaska National Guard Day"

"An Act establishing July 30 each year as Alaska National Guard Day"

House Bill 247 establishes Alaska National Guard Day on July 30 each year to honor the men and women of our Alaska National Guard for their tremendous bravery, sacrifice, and commitment to our communities, to our state, and to our nation.

Since its authorization on July 30, 1948, the Alaska National Guard has grown, changed and modernized to help in its role of protecting life and property both at home and abroad.

The Alaska National Guard (AKNG or The Guard) has a unique dual mission with both federal and state responsibilities and is the military arm of the Governor. In times of emergency, the guard stands ready to immediately respond when the Governor calls for help with local or state-wide emergencies. In addition, the President of the United States can activate the Alaska National Guard to participate in Federal missions. For example many of our Alaska Guard units have deployed to support operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places. Sadly, many have given their lives as well.

The Alaska National Guard soldiers and airmen always stand ready to protect the citizens of this state and have earned a well-deserved reputation for excellence. It's important to set aside a day each year to honor them.

Thank you for your support of House Bill 247.