

From: Theresa M Dayton  
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 11:09 AM  
Subject: Re: HB 164 Letter of Support

As the widow of the late SMSgt Thomas E. Cicardo, Alaska Air National Guard, who died 28, July 2010, my world was turned upside down. Besides the death of my beloved husband, the 2nd greatest impact was financial. I whole-heartedly support HB 164 as there is a need to assist those who are the surviving spouses.

Of the 5 widows created from the 2 Military air craft crashed in 2010, 2 widows have permanently moved away from Alaska. I know that for one it was partially due to the cost of living here.

Most Military are families, the death of the Military spouse, in the Line of Duty, leaves this terrible, sudden emotional & financial impact that as much as we think we are prepared for it is still greater that you can imagine.

For a few years the Military puts you in a Survivor status, & your benefits pretty much don't change but at the end of the 3rd year, after the spouse's death, you are put in Retired Status & the out of pocket cost for the same benefits increases by as much as 300%. Yet the pension payments from DFAS only increase by \$10 a month/year & eventually those payments stop.

By passing this Bill, Alaska would saying to the families of the Fallen, thank you for sacrifice & we are here & would like you to make Alaska your home!

Sincerely,  
Theresa M. Dayton