

Alaska State Legislature

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Joint Armed Services
Committee
Military and Veterans'
Affairs Committee
House Majority Caucus

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SPONSOR STATEMENT **HB 175**

An Act Establishing November 1st as "Military Family Day."

HB 175 establishes November 1st as Alaska's "Military Family Day" to honor and support families of the men and women who put their lives on the line for us every day to serve the people of our great state and country. Because November is designated as a National Military Family month, November 1 starts it off specifically for our Alaska military families.

Military families are the "folks back home" who help keep our warriors at peak effectiveness - be it stateside duty or combat duty. Worrying about your kid's homework; getting the bills paid on time, or worrying about anything at all back home is not something that's safe to do when the enemy is attempting to kill you.

The military family is major source of morale, and the foundation of what's good about our military. The day someone joins the military is the day the family virtually joins the military too. When we support the military family, we support the military member.

Many service members transfer from one place to another about every two years. That means the family also moves to somewhere else. The kids change schools (maybe in their senior year); churches are changed; the spouse may have to give up their job, and of course the curtains don't fit the new place. The spouse, some say, has the toughest job in the military.

Let's honor our Alaska Military families for their commitment and sacrifices and recognize that they are a major source of morale and strength to our service members.