



ALASKA SEARCH and RESCUE ASSOCIATION

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April 18, 2017

HB 235 - Act to Create the North Star Medal Letter of Support

Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Alaska State House of Representatives
Room 411, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins:

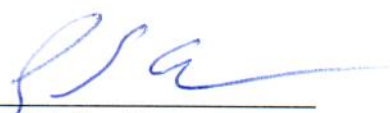
On behalf of over 750 search and rescue volunteers across the state of Alaska, the Alaska Search and Rescue Association supports HB235 and the creation of the North Star Medal.

Alaska is home to some of the world's most unforgiving and harsh environments. This week there was someone lost or missing somewhere in Alaska. Last week was the same and next week will be as well.

Whether these lost or missing individuals are hunters, trappers, fisherman, recreationists, or travelers, there are volunteers in every region of Alaska who step up and help our Alaska State Troopers and local authorities search miles and miles of waterways, wilderness areas, avalanches, and urban areas. Although safety practices and precautions are followed rigorously, these volunteers are put at additional risk of injury and harm by the nature of the activity, search and rescue.

SAR volunteers leave their families, their jobs, their lives behind when called upon and they do so without hesitation. At the same time, most SAR volunteers are not looking for recognition for their efforts or time. Yet, it seems appropriate that this award be available should the most awful event occur, and an accident or tragic event takes the life of one of our SAR volunteers. This form or recognition would help honor the sacrifice and loss of loved ones who gave their lives "*so... others may live.*"

Sincerely,



Corey Aist, President
Alaska Search and Rescue Association