

# *Alaska State Legislature*

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## **Representative Carl Gatto District 13**

### **Sponsor Statement HJR 18**

***“Relating to the case of U.S. v. Hasan and to the decision of the Judge Advocate General of the United States Army with respect to that case.”***

HJR 18 urges the Judge Advocate General of the United States Army to carefully consider the death penalty as a sentencing option for Major Nidal Malik Hasan, if he is found guilty.

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Nidal Malik Hasan, a psychiatrist and a major in the United States Army, entered the Soldier Readiness Center of Fort Hood in Texas and began shooting unarmed military personnel. By the end of the attack, he had killed 13 people and wounded 29 others.

Mr. Hasan is a citizen of the United States and a member of its armed forces. However, Mr. Hasan has been linked to an Al Qaeda terrorist, Anwar al-Awlaki, and has been known to make remarks sympathetic to an extremist ideology. He is also reported to have yelled “Allahu Akbar” prior to the attack. This behavior suggests that Mr. Hassan was acting as an agent of a terrorist organization bent upon harming American military assets, which would constitute an act of treason against his country.

Mr. Hasan was wounded by military police during the attack and cared for in a military hospital. He now faces a court martial and possibly the death penalty. HJR 18 would add the support of the Alaska Legislature to encouraging the death penalty option.