

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Joint Resolution 25

HJR 25 is simply a resolution to urge our President, Vice President, the Congress, and the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to support the passage of HR-543, "The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013."

HR-543 would reestablish medical benefits related to Agent Orange exposure for certain military personnel who served in the Vietnam War. The VA removed from such coverage any service-members who did not have 'boots on the ground' in Vietnam, as if the dioxin contaminants in Agent Orange stayed out of the air and water and off of the thousands of tons of supplies and personnel that transited from Vietnam to the ships and planes offshore.

There are an estimated 609 Blue Water Navy Veterans in Alaska who could possibly be affected by diseases brought on by Agent Orange exposure. Without help, projections are that these veterans will be gone by the year 2020. These men and women served our nation and deserve our help.

I urge you to support HJR 25.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gabrielle LeDoux".