

**February 8, 2013**

**Subject, HCR 2 Declaring Alaska as a Purple Heart State**

**I wish to address the Alaska legislature with the goal of having Alaska join other states to declare Alaska, the largest state in the nation, as a Purple Heart State.**

**California declared itself as a Purple Heart State on April 16, 2012**

**Ohio declared itself as a Purple Heart State on May 23, 2012**

**Kentucky declared itself as a Purple Heart state on June 28, 2012**

**Other states are taking action to join in this growing program as a means to thank and publicly acknowledge the harsh sacrifice that has been endured by those who have been awarded the Purple Heart.**

**Alaska has an admirable and proven record of honoring and caring for the many veterans who have served this great nation and have freely chosen to call Alaska home. There can be no doubt that Alaska has and will continue to benefit in numerous ways as a result of this segment of Alaskans.**

**The military affected the award of the Purple Heart Medal. When the wounded veteran leaves military service the memory of the incident that brought about the award **lingers strong in the mind of the recipient**. I submit that the public who benefited from that service owes ongoing gratitude for what that service member endured. The pain and terror of what occurred cannot be felt by those who were not there, but the ongoing honor can indeed have an appreciated impact on all Purple Heart recipients.**

**Our nation has numerous Purple Heart cities and many Purple Heart Counties, Alaska has some Purple Heart Cities and a Purple Heart Borough. The number of Purple Heart states will continue to grow nationally. Currently California is the largest Purple Heart State. Alaska can and should be the largest Purple Heart State. When Alaska legislative action to do so is complete Alaska will forever be the largest Purple Heart State.**

**It is for these and other reasons that I respectfully ask the Alaska legislative body to unanimously declare Alaska as a Purple Heart State.**

*Ron Siebels*

**Ron Siebels; Anchorage, AK**

**MOPH, National Senior Vice Commander**