

ENERGY CO-CHAIR
CHARISSE MILLETT

R - ANCHORAGE (HD24)

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PRESS RELEASE

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NEW BILL WILL HELP MILITARY WIDOWS STAY IN THEIR HOMES ***HB 164 creates tax exemption for spouses of fallen military members***

Wednesday, March 13, 2013, Juneau, Alaska – Families of military members killed during service to their country will find it easier to keep their home with legislation introduced today by Rep. Charisse Millett, R-Anchorage.

"This is the least we can do for the family of a fallen military member," Millett said. "The spouse left behind not only deals with the grief of losing their loved one, but due to the loss of income he or she also struggles to keep the family home. This legislation eases the financial burden during that difficult time."

House Bill 164 allows local governments to grant a partial property tax exemption on a home owned by the widow of a military member. Last year the voters in the Municipality of Anchorage widely approved a ballot proposition granting the exemption on the first \$150,000 of assessed value.

The legislation only applies to the primary residence. The surviving spouse must be at least 60 years old, an Alaska resident for at least one year before receiving the exemption and be living in the home for a minimum of 185 days per year. It expires once the surviving spouse remarries. If passed, the bill will be retroactive to January 1, 2013.

Without the legislation, some military families would have to leave Alaska. HB 164 gives them the opportunity to stay and remain a valued part of our community.

HB 164 has been referred to the House Military and Veterans' Affairs committee and the Community and Regional Affairs committee for review.

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For more information, contact Representative Millett at 465-3879.