

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SESSION

State Capitol, Rm 504
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4968 Phone
senator.mia.costello@akleg.gov



INTERIM

1500 W. Benson Boulevard
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone (907) 269-0117

SENATOR MIA COSTELLO SENATE DISTRICT K

Jewel Lake, Kincaid, Turnagain, Lake Hood, Sand Lake, Spenard, Dimond, Campbell Lake

SPONSOR STATEMENT Senate Concurrent Resolution 14

“Relating to awarding the Alaska Decoration of Honor to certain members of the military.”

It is an honor and a privilege to recognize those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the service of Alaska, that of surrendering their life in the protection of our state and our country. Since 2007, the Legislature has honored their sacrifice with the Alaska Decoration of Honor, presenting a medal to surviving family or friends. There have been more than two hundred recipients of this honor since statehood, recognizing the important roll Alaskans have played, and continue to play, in the security of our home.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 awards the Alaska Decoration of Honor to three armyemen killed in the line of duty during 2017:

Private First Class Hansen B. Kirkpatrick (Died July 3, 2017)
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jacob M. Sims (Died October 28, 2017)
Staff Sergeant David T. Brabander (Died December 11, 2017)

Private Kirkpatrick of Wasilla served as a mortarman in the 1-36 Infantry stationed in Fort Bills, Texas. At only 19 years old, he died in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, due to wounds sustained during an indirect fire attack. He was described as “a caring, disciplined, and intelligent young soldier.”

Chief Warrant Officer Sims of Oklahoma and Southeast Alaska, 36, was a combat engineer turned UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter pilot who had served this state and nation for nearly 20 years. He was killed in a helicopter crash during his deployment in Logar Province, Afghanistan. He served multiple tours of duty in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant Brabander of Wasilla was a squad leader at Joint Base Elemendorf-Richardson. The 24-year-old deployed to Afghanistan in September, and was killed in Nangahar Province, Afghanistan when his vehicle overturned in a combat zone. Like so many Alaskans, he loved the outdoors.

It is a solemn occasion for a Decoration of Honor to be necessary, and it is our hope that those who put their lives on the line for the safety of Alaskans return home safely themselves. We offer our condolences to the families and friends of these three servicemen, honor their service, and memorialize their sacrifice by passing SCR 14.