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January 25, 2024

The Honorable Forrest Dunbar
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol #125
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Support for SB 159 / Veterans' Poppy Day Legislation

Dear Senator Dunbar:

As the grandson of a WWI veteran, and as a two-tour veteran of the Vietnam War, and as an Alaskan who has worked voluntarily in the state's veterans' community for over forty years, I thank you for sponsoring Senate Bill 159, the measure to establish an annual Veterans' Poppy Day in Alaska.

Recognition in Alaska of this long-standing program of the American Legion will benefit not only the state's military veterans, but also members of our currently-serving armed forces. It will serve them by enshrining the Friday prior to Memorial Day each year, as a day of special reflection on military history, service, sacrifice, and remembrance.

The symbolism of the iconic red poppy emerged from the European battlefields of WWI, and to this day, illustrates remembrance of our war casualties. I was the coordinator for the development, construction, and dedication of the Anchorage Veterans' Memorial at Delaney Park in 1987. I also headed up its renovation and rededication in 2014. On its panels are the names of Alaskans killed in each of our nation's military engagements. The image of the red poppy merges well with the casualties memorialized downtown at Delaney Park. Thank you again for this legislation.

Appreciatively,
