

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES WEYHRAUCH, Dahlstrom, Gardner, Lynn, Stoltze, Gruenberg, Harris, Hawker, Thomas, Seaton, Elkins, Rokeberg, Gara, Wilson, Croft, Ramras, Meyer, Foster, McGuire, Chenault, Neuman, Guttenberg, Anderson, LeDoux

SENATORS Ellis, Bunde, Cowdery, Davis, Dyson, Elton, French, Green, Guess, Hoffman, Huggins, Kookesh, Olson, Seekins, Stedman, Ben Stevens, Gary Stevens, Therriault, Wagoner, Wilken

Introduced: 2/2/05

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Expressing support of Alaska Army National Guard soldiers deployed worldwide.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** Alaska has more than 250 Alaska Army National Guard soldiers on
4 active duty, and approximately 170 of those soldiers are currently deployed overseas, many of
5 them involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom; and

6 **WHEREAS** 67 Aviation Battalion soldiers recently returned from nearly a year in
7 Kosovo; and

8 **WHEREAS** additional deployments of soldiers to Operation Iraqi Freedom and
9 Operation Enduring Freedom are planned; and

10 **WHEREAS** approximately 80 National Guard soldiers are on duty in Alaska working
11 with the National Missile Defense security mission at Fort Greely, and another 36 soldiers
12 have just completed two years of duty securing Kulis Air National Guard Base; and

13 **WHEREAS** active duty for these National Guard soldiers involves spending a great
14 deal of time away from their homes and families; for example, Alaska Army National Guard
15 soldiers involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom generally
16 spend an entire year overseas, with an additional six months of mobilization, training, and

1 demobilization time; and

2 **WHEREAS** each of these National Guard soldiers has a civilian life, a family, and a
3 role in the community as well, and service overseas requires considerable personal sacrifice as
4 well as support from families, friends, employers, and the community; and

5 **WHEREAS** National Guard soldiers are employed in all sectors of Alaska's economy;
6 as civilians, they are mechanics, truck drivers, cooks, business managers, small business
7 owners, pilots, fishermen, accountants, police officers, fire fighters, mill workers, salespeople,
8 and public employees; and

9 **WHEREAS** National Guard soldiers live in all areas of the state, from Metlakatla to
10 Barrow, from Kotzebue to Togiak, and in Kodiak, Kenai, and Kake;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature commends the bravery,
12 dedication, and willingness to serve of each individual in the Alaska Army National Guard,
13 particularly those who have been, are, or will soon be deployed overseas; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes and
15 appreciates the personal sacrifices made by these soldiers in order to serve, as well as those of
16 their families, employers, and communities; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature commends the families
18 and friends of these soldiers and recognizes their unwavering support; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature expresses its heartfelt
20 support of these soldiers as they carry out their missions, and wishes each of them success in
21 these important endeavors and a safe return home.

22 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to Major General Craig E. Campbell,
23 Adjutant General, Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and Commander of the
24 Alaska Army National Guard; Lieutenant General H. Steven Blum, Chief, National Guard
25 Bureau, United States Department of Defense; and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
26 Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
27 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.