

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

May 8, 2024

3:39 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Representative Stanley Wright, Chair  
Representative Laddie Shaw  
Representative Ben Carpenter  
Representative Dan Saddler  
Representative Cliff Groh  
Representative Andrew Gray

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Representative George Rauscher

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 174 (CRA)

"An Act relating to the Honor and Remember Flag and the Honor and Sacrifice Flag."

- MOVED CSSB 174 (CRA) OUT OF COMMITTEE

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: SB 174

SHORT TITLE: HONOR & REMEMBER/HONOR & SACRIFICE FLAGS

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) BJORKMAN

01/16/24	(S)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/12/24
01/16/24	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/16/24	(S)	CRA
04/02/24	(S)	CRA WAIVED PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE, RULE 23
04/04/24	(S)	CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
04/04/24	(S)	Heard & Held
04/04/24	(S)	MINUTE (CRA)
04/16/24	(S)	CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
04/16/24	(S)	Moved CSSB 174 (CRA) Out of Committee
04/16/24	(S)	MINUTE (CRA)
04/17/24	(S)	CRA RPT CS 4DP SAME TITLE
04/17/24	(S)	DP: DUNBAR, GRAY-JACKSON, GIESSEL, BJORKMAN
05/03/24	(S)	TRANSMITTED TO (H)

05/03/24 (S) VERSION: CSSB 174 (CRA)  
05/06/24 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
05/06/24 (H) MLV  
05/07/24 (H) CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124  
05/07/24 (H) <Bill Hearing Canceled>  
05/07/24 (H) MLV AT 1:00 PM GRUENBERG 120  
05/07/24 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
05/08/24 (H) MLV AT 3:15 PM GRUENBERG 120

#### **WITNESS REGISTER**

SENATOR JESSE BJORKMAN  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** As the prime sponsor, introduced 174(CRA).

DAVE CASWELL, Director  
Alaska Chapter of Honor and Remember  
Sterling, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave invited testimony on 174(CRA).

#### **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[3:39:39 PM](#)

**CHAIR STANLEY WRIGHT** called the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs meeting to order at 3:39 p.m. Representatives Gray, Groh, Saddler, Carpenter, Shaw, and Wright were present at the call to order.

#### **SB 174-HONOR & REMEMBER/HONOR & SACRIFICE FLAGS**

[3:40:21 PM](#)

CHAIR WRIGHT announced that the only order of business would be CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 174(CRA) "An Act relating to the Honor and Remember Flag and the Honor and Sacrifice Flag."

[3:40:47 PM](#)

SENATOR JESSE BJORKMAN, Alaska State Legislature, as prime sponsor, introduced CSSB 174(CRA). He explained that the goal of the proposed legislation is to recognize a military veteran's remembrance flag as an official state symbol in Alaska. He stated that this would be in remembrance of those who have given their lives in the line of duty and service to their country and communities. He discussed the difficulties when a family member

is lost in this way and stated that the proposed legislation would create a state symbol to be presented to family members when someone is lost in the line of duty, whether the individual is a service member, veteran, police officer, or firefighter. He stated that 27 other states have already identified these flags as a means to recognize those lost in the line of duty. He continued that the proposed legislation would define the form the flags would take, as well as where they may be flown. He explained that this would not be a requirement on state offices, and no additional cost would be incurred to the state.

[3:42:49 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SHAW expressed his appreciation to the bill sponsor for bringing this issue forward.

[3:43:24 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER expressed his appreciation for the proposed legislation and noted that it would be optional through the discretionary clause.

[3:44:12 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER acknowledged that each generation needs to find its own way to acknowledge those who have sacrificed and served. He expressed support for CSSB 174 as the appropriate way to do so.

[3:45:19 PM](#)

DAVE CASWELL, Director, Alaska Chapter of Honor and Remember, shared his history and experience. He gave a history of the organization, explaining that it was inspired by the five dreaded words - "We regret to inform you." He said that the organization created the flag to bring recognition to those in our society who often are forgotten. He gave context to the national scope of Honor and Remember, saying that it has presented over 5,000 personalized flags to families of fallen veterans. He referenced the House Joint Resolution 53 [passed during the Twenty-Sixth Alaska State Legislature], of which Honor and Remember was instrumental in passing. He noted that the national online petition, which would make the remembrance flags officially recognized, has over 50,000 signatures. He listed several corporations and companies who recognize the remembrance flags. In order to recognize those who serve, he relayed that many feel more should be done than setting aside

one day of the year. He argued that CSSB 147 would achieve this by giving veterans and families of lost veterans something they can look to for identity, pride, and remembrance.

[3:50:53 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE GRAY thanked Mr. Caswell for his work on the issue.

[3:51:30 PM](#)

CHAIR WRIGHT opened public testimony on CSSB 174(CRA). After ascertaining that there was no one who wished to testify, he closed public testimony.

[3:51:58 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SHAW moved to report CSSB 174(CRA) out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes.

[3:52:17 PM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease.

[3:52:29 PM](#)

CHAIR WRIGHT, there being no objection, reported CSSB 174(CRA) out of the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs.

[3:52:43 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 3:52 p.m. to 3:54 p.m.

[3:54:12 PM](#)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.