



26th ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
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SENATOR GENE THERRIAULT, MINORITY LEADER
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 427, 465.4797 (FAX 465.3884)

SENATOR CON BUNDE
SENATOR FRED DYSON
SENATOR TOM WAGONER

Fact Sheet: Senate Joint Resolution 4
Sponsor: Senator Gene Therriault

Contact: Heather Brakes, 465.4797

Short Title: ALASKA TERRITORIAL GUARD RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Summary:

- Supports the efforts by Alaska's Congressional Delegation to restore and reinstate those retirement benefits deserved by Alaska's Territorial Guard.
- Calls on the U.S. Department of Defense to reverse its January 2009 decision denying retirement benefits to those Alaska Native elders now receiving monthly benefits.
- Calls for President Obama to direct the Department of Defense to issue a formal apology to those who are so adversely affected by its recent decision.

Benefits:

- Alaska State Legislature on record supporting the efforts of its Congressional Delegation to reinstate the benefits of the Alaska Territorial Guard.

Background:

In 1942, during World War II Alaska Governor Ernest Gruening organized the Alaska Territorial Guard to help defend Alaska and the Nation from invasion and nearly 6,400 mostly Alaska Natives voluntarily joined the Territorial Guard.

In 2000 U.S. Senator Ted Stevens was instrumental in passing legislation to finally formally recognize Alaska's Territorial Guard and thereby grant these brave individuals retirement benefits.

A recent decision by the United States Department of Defense will go into effect February 1, 2009 and will deny these benefits.

Senate Joint Resolution 4 states that the Alaska Legislature supports its Congressional Delegation in reversing the U.S. Department of Defense's decision. The Alaska Legislature requests the benefits continue to be paid and calls for President Obama to direct the U.S. Department of Defense to issue a formal apology to the members of the Territorial Guard so adversely affected by its recent decision.