

Introduced by: Vice-Mayor Leinberger
Date: February 10, 2009
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution # 09-05

SUPPORTING SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION (SJR) NO. 5 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PERMANENT REINSTATEMENT OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF ALASKA'S TERRITORIAL GUARD

WHEREAS, veterans of the Alaska Territorial Guard are faced with discontinued retirements pay;

WHEREAS, following the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor in 1941 the Governor of the Alaska Territory, Ernest Gruening, established the Alaska Territories Guard who were recruited and trained to defend their towns and villages if the Japanese invaded;

WHEREAS, totaling 6,600 men and women patrolling more than 5,200 miles of land, these brave individuals received no pay or benefits during their service;

WHEREAS, it was not until the year 2000, federal law was changed to recognize the volunteers who served in the Alaska Territorial Guard, they were recognized for the time they served, and became eligible for benefits from the Veterans Administration;

WHEREAS, many of the people serving as Eskimo Scouts in WWII continued their services following the disbanding of the Alaska Territorial Guard by becoming involved in the United States Army and the Alaska National Guard;

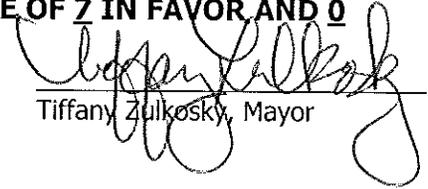
WHEREAS, there are 26 surviving members who are receiving retirement benefits for their services to the Alaska Territorial Guard, these individuals will lose as much as \$557 each month in their retirement pay, which is scheduled to end on February 1, 2009;

WHEREAS, aside from being deserving of the retirement benefits for the services they provided these Alaskan elders who may not have previous knowledge of this substantial finance decline may faced continued hardship during the remaining winter months;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Bethel is hereby in favor of the proposed legislation that is known as SJR5 as well as supports the permanent reinstatement of retirement benefits for members of the Alaska Territorial Guard.

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**ENACTED THIS 10th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2009 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0
OPPOSED.**


Tiffany Zulkosky, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk