

Valdez City Council Meeting February 7, 2017.

Good Evening Honorable Mayor, Ruth Knight, and Valdez City Council Members.

Lacking the privilege and opportunity to appear before you in person, it is an honor and my hope, that you will accept this writing; which expresses my extreme gratitude for your compassion, commitment and dedication for **all** you have done in support of the “National Guard Memorial” project.

Please accept these humble thanks, while I recognize the importance of the \$35,000 funding, which has been dedicated by the Valdez City Council, and supported by the Honorable Mayor Ruth Knight.

I am emotionally moved and honored by the actions this council and mayor have committed toward the commemoration of my flight crew and the State of Alaska National Guard Adjutant General. All who were tragically lost, Saturday, April 25, 1964, as their aircraft crashed into the Bay of Valdez following a quake related humanitarian relief mission.

These men were decorated veterans, selfless in their service to the citizens of Alaska, and worthy of the highest personal recognition for their ultimate sacrifice.

It was an honor and privilege to have been able to serve with men of this caliber. In the days, weeks, and early months following the “Good Friday Alaska Earthquake of March 27, 1964,” I dispatched these flight crews who conducted countless support missions, thereby mitigating the suffering of thousands of Alaskans. They took to the skies oftentimes in situations that were detrimental to their own safety; without hesitation and always considering “others before self.”

The Air National Guard, their families, relatives, and friends will be forever grateful for the compassion and dedication that has been shown in these chambers. No matter what the ultimate conclusion of your efforts may be, please know that all of you, by your selfless conduct, have shown honor and respect for a deserving people; and for that I am eternally grateful to all of you.

Mayor and Council Members, you have my deepest respect, gratitude, honor and humility,

Chuck Volanti, former Alaska Air National Guard 1964

