



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**

GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of Military and
Veterans Affairs**

Office of the Commissioner

P.O. Box 5800
JBER, AK 99505-0800
Main: 907.428.6003
Fax: 907.428.6019

September 25, 2014

McHugh Pierre
PO Box 243891
Anchorage, AK 99524

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Governor Sean Parnell:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the residents of our state as the Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. It has been a blessing to serve in this position for the last five years.

Together, we have made some tremendous accomplishments. We expanded the veterans' office and have quadrupled the number of veterans and family members served, from 10,000 per year, to more than 40,000 per year. We increased the graduation rate at the Alaska Military Youth Academy from 65% to 75%; this is better than the Anchorage School District! We have promoted Alaska as a military-friendly state and the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, Admiral Papp, said, "Alaska is the best state for me to work with."

We partnered with the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the Municipality of Anchorage to keep the F-16s at Eielson Air Force Base, and Eielson has been selected as the only location in the Pacific Theater for the stationing of two squadrons of F-35s. We partnered with the Alaska Railroad Corporation to expand military access into the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex by building the bridge over the Tanana River.

We have responded to countless disaster situations, from the Tsunami that hit Fukushima in Japan, to the Crooked Creek and Galena floods. It has been very rewarding to knock on doors

and speak with residents immediately after a disaster strikes, and see those same families months later, when their home is restored and the community is fully functioning.

We have also set the stage to continue to honor our veterans with a cemetery in the Interior of our state. Construction will start on this project in the spring of 2015, and I am so happy for the veterans of the Interior, to have a final resting place where they can receive the full benefits promised to them by the federal government.

It is time for me to take on new challenges and new adventures in the private sector. My experience with three governors has been a blessing, and I am so thankful to have each unique opportunity to serve. I submit my resignation from state service, effective October 2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'McHugh Pierre', written in a cursive style.

McHugh Pierre
Deputy Commissioner
