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Contact: Jennifer Davis 907-229-6955
Rich Moniak 907-957-1956

Alaska Military Families Respond to Senator Murkowski's Press Release Expressing Gratitude to Secretary Rumsfeld

Families tell Murkowski: "No Gratitude to Rumsfeld for Promises on top of Broken Promises"

ALASKA - On October 2, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (AK) issued a press release expressing her gratitude to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Army Secretary Francis Harvey for committing to bringing the 172nd back from Iraq at the end of their 120 day extension.

On October 23, members of Military Families Speak Out (MFSO) Alaska sent a reply to Senator Murkowski in an open letter saying that a commitment to bring back the troops at the end of a 120 day extension is no cause for celebration. "In our opinion, Donald Rumsfeld is undeserving of any sort of gratitude. Our loved ones are still on the front lines in an October that may soon prove to be the deadliest month in Iraq for American soldiers in two years. And the civilian death toll continues to soar. When does Congress plan to hold this administration accountable for the truth that their war was and still is a total failure?" said Rich Moniak a member of Military Families Speak Out from Juneau, Alaska.

MFSO Alaska finds Murkowski's expression of gratitude to Secretary Rumsfeld insensitive to military families who still have loved ones in Iraq, especially to those families with soldiers in the 172nd who should have been home two months ago and who are still in Iraq facing injury and death. They call on the Senator to respond to their letter, take appropriate action to initiate change in the leadership at the Pentagon and work to bring all of our troops home now and take care of them when they get here.

In late September, the Army informed members of Congress that they have identified a unit to replace 172nd Stryker Brigade in Baghdad. Members of MFSO Alaska are counting the days until their loved ones come home, but they also know that the return of the 172nd only means separation and pain for another group of military families whose loved ones will be sent to Iraq to replace them.

MFSO Alaska wrote to Sen. Murkowski on September 18 urging her to call for the resignation of Donald Rumsfeld. In public statements, Senator Murkowski has said that she will not seek Mr. Rumsfeld's resignation and continues to support not only Secretary Rumsfeld but the administration's war policies that have been so destructive to our troops, their families and the people of Iraq.

To view the most recent letter sent by MFSO Alaska to Senator Murkowski, go to: <http://www.mfso.org>

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