

Begich Family Says Thanks to Alaskans

January 19, 1973

Dear Friends,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Alaskan people for the support and comfort they have given us since October 16th of last year when we learned that the plane carrying Nick, Congressman Boggs and Russel Brown to Juneau never arrived there.

From the beginning, we have been heartened by the response of people from all walks of life. Countless numbers of pilots took time from their jobs to participate in the search effort while others volunteered as spotters. We have received hundreds of phone calls and letters first offering us hope and prayers that Nick and his companions would be found and, ultimately, offering thoughts and prayers to ease our grief.

Major Henry Stocker, his men from the Rescue Co-ordination Center, and the members of the Civil Air Patrol could not have made a greater effort. We would especially like to publicly thank these fine men for their devotion to this massive search effort.

When we had the sad task of arranging a memorial service, we received full co-operation from the Anchorage Borough School District, the City of Anchorage greenhouse, the press, the military people on Elmendorf and Ft. Richardson, who were so helpful in making arrangements for the people arriving with the Congressional delegation on the plane from Washington, the Anchorage Community Chorus, and so many others who were so helpful at a very

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difficult time for us.

If a tragedy has to occur, then let it be shared with the people of Alaska who open their hearts to others more than any other people in any other place. Nick's tremendous faith in Alaska and Alaskans remains intact. Indeed, he would have been very proud of each and every one of you to whom we owe so much.

Thank you.

Most Sincerely,

Pegge Begich

Mr. and Mrs. John Begich
of Eveleth, Minnesota

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Jendre
of St. Cloud, Minnesota