

# Pegge Begich tests congressional chances

Pegge Begich, Anchorage businesswoman and widow of Alaska's late Congressman Nick Begich, has formed a committee to explore her potential candidacy for Alaska's lone seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"There are three reasons why I am forming this Exploratory Committee," Begich said. "First, to travel around the state during the coming weeks to talk with people about the issues and my potential candidacy. Second, to develop a statewide campaign committee, and third, to find out if I will be able to raise the amount of money it will take to beat Don Young."

Named to the Begich for Congress Exploratory Committee were: Dave Walsh, Anchorage; Jan Ackerman, Fairbanks; Bren-



Pegge Begich

da Johnson, Nome; Margaret Ritchie, Juneau; Al Baffone, Anchorage; Claire & Erling Strand, Petersburg; Jane Angvik, Anchorage; Kay Bills, Sutton; Norma Lang, Juneau; Jan McCrimmon and Jim McGuire from Eagle River; Hank Harrison, Girdwood; Bill Parker, Anchorage; and Gary Ackerman, Fairbanks. Additional names will be

announced later.

"Don Young has not been an effective Congressman," Begich stated. "Alaskans deserve to have a representative who will be there to vote. You can't represent anyone if you aren't there." Begich added, "A lot of people have asked me to run. But, before I file, I want my family, friends and supporters to know that I will be the candidate that can win."

"This is the year Don Young can be beat," Begich continued. "His poor reputation on Capitol Hill, his unacceptable attendance record, and his ineffectiveness have combined into a record that Alaskans can no longer tolerate. It's time for a change."

Two Anchorage Democrats, lawyer Tom Dahl and management consultant Ronald Mallott, have officially entered the race. Republican George Johnston, an Anchorage computer programmer, also has officially filed with the commission.

Pegge Begich was born in St. Cloud, Minnesota on April 21, 1938, the middle child of five

children.

She graduated from St. Cloud Technical High School in 1956. That same year she came north as the new bride of Nick Begich, a school administrator for the

Nick Begich was first elected to the State Senate in 1962 and served two terms. In 1970, he was elected to Alaska's lone seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. The family moved to Washington D.C. and became very involved in the work of representing Alaska. Mrs. Begich became active in the Democratic Women's Forum and the Congressional Wives Club.

Congressman Begich was killed in a 1972 plane accident while campaigning for re-election. The family returned to Alaska to begin rebuilding their lives with Pegge now a widow and the sole support of her 6 children.

Pegge continued to run Begich Construction, which dealt in apartment rentals, construction, and real estate investments. She also became more active in community and volunteer organ-

izations. She served as a member of the Steller High School Advisory Committee, Residential Chairperson of the Anchorage Cancer Crusade and co-founded the Nick Begich Scholarship Intern Fund.

In more recent years, she has been a member and co-chair of the Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies at UAA, a member of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Subsistence Hunting, chaired the statewide 1983 gubernatorial Inaugural Committee for Governor Sheffield, and has been involved as a board member for several businesses. She was also appointed in 1983 by Mayor Tony Knowles to serve on the new William Egan Convention Center Task Force.

Since 1979, Pegge has been Democratic National Committeewoman for Alaska. She is currently serving on the Arrangement Committee for the 1984 Convention in San Francisco. This office has given her continuing and important connections with leaders across the United States.