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For Immediate Release:

Benson Collects Max Cleland Endorsement

Anchorage - Diane Benson, Democratic candidate for Alaska's At-Large seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, today received the endorsement of former United States Senator Max Cleland.

Since meeting Senator Cleland at Walter Reed Army Medical Center last winter, while attending to her son, injured in Iraq; Diane and Senator Cleland have stayed on constant contact and he has become a mentor to her.

"He is truly an inspiration to Democrats around the country, and always encourages me as a candidate. On a personal level, he has been very considerate, particularly since he has a keen understanding of what my family and I have overcome in the last 8 months," stated Benson. "I appreciate his humanity and leadership."

"I have watched this family take this tragedy in their lives and turn it around. It is Diane and her son's continued strength to persevere that constantly impresses me. Diane is one courageous woman," stated Cleland.

"Alaska needs Diane as the next member of Congress in the House of Representatives. She will bring strong leadership and a perspective to the needs of our Veterans and Soldiers that no other member in Congress can offer."

Senator Cleland served as Senator of Georgia from 1997 – 2003. He served in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of captain 1965-1968; wounded in combat in Vietnam. He is currently serving as a member of the board of directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

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