

Pulse Article --December 2002

**Senator Loren Leman, District G—Northwest Anchorage and Elmendorf AFB
Senate Majority Leader**

Farewell to the Legislature—Hello New Challenges

It is the day after the November 5 election as I write this and Alaskans are grasping the meaning of the results that produced a new team in the executive branch and several new legislators. I look forward to serving you in my new capacity as Lieutenant Governor. However, I will miss being your Senator and representing the fine people from Elmendorf AFB and Turnagain to Turpin Road in Northwest Anchorage in the Legislature.

Being a legislator is challenging, but what I'll remember most are not the problems and conflicts that come with the job, but the people I've met doing it. Alaskans meet new challenges with optimism, good cheer and hard work, as our responses to the recent earthquakes in the Interior and flooding in the Kenai Peninsula have shown. Our land is not an easy one to live in, but a great one.

I believe most Alaskans are poised to move forward with a spirit of enthusiasm and optimism that has sometimes been muted by talk about our problems and limitations. Bringing new growth and opportunities to our State will help make Alaska attractive to our young people and to investors and entrepreneurs.

As I move on to new pursuits I'll leave you with this: We have important decisions to make and actions to take. I urge you to participate by contacting your elected officials with your ideas and concerns, by voting in every election and perhaps even running for office.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Thirty-six years ago a teacher at Ninilchik School inspired me with the idea that someday I could become a legislator and help make Alaska better. Representing you in the Legislature has been the dream of a lifetime.

If you wish to discuss this article or other issues, please call me at (907) 269-0240 or 465-3520 after December 2. You can also reach me by email at Senator_Loren_Leman@legis.state.ak.us or Loren_Leman@gov.state.ak.us.