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NEWS RELEASE: Alaska Community Action on Toxics' is hosting a Breast Cancer Awareness Tour, May 29th –June 3rd

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Breast Cancer Awareness Tour brings the Film Semper Fi Always Faithful to Alaska

Film features the struggle uncovering the largest male breast cancer cluster and the military cover-up of groundwater contamination at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina

Anchorage, AK – Alaska Community Action on Toxics welcomes Jerry Ensminger to Alaska. He brings his documentary featuring his struggle to expose military contamination and his personal story. Jerry Ensminger is a former Marine Corps Master Sergeant and national hero who brought to national attention the military cover up of groundwater contamination at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and who investigated and exposed a large cancer cluster including rare male breast cancer. An estimated 1 million Marines and their families were exposed to toxic chemicals in Camp Lejeune's drinking water over several decades.

The film Semper Fi Always Faithful will tour with Jerry Ensminger beginning in Anchorage May 29th at the Anchorage Museum with a reception beginning at 6:30 pm. Next stop is Fairbanks on May 30th at the Pioneer Park Theater with a reception at 6:30 pm. Jerry will visit Nome on June 3rd at the Old St. Joseph's Church and St. Lawrence Island. He will be in Gambell on June 1st and in Savoonga June 2nd. We are especially pleased to bring this film to St. Lawrence Island where the villages have been dealing with the military contamination left over at the East Cape. There are high rates of cancer and illnesses on St. Lawrence Island and the military contaminants at the East Cape are showing up in their traditional foods.

"I met Jerry Ensminger when he spoke at the National Disease Cluster Alliance Conference in Washington D. C. last year and showed the film Semper Fi. I was deeply moved when I heard Jerry speak about the loss of his daughter Janey to leukemia when she was just 9 years old, and his story made me think of how many of my friends and family of St. Lawrence Island we have lost to cancer and other illnesses. His loss inspired his tireless work uncovering the military cover-up of the contamination at Camp Lejeune and led to the discovery of the largest male breast cancer cluster ever found." Vi Waghiyi, Environmental Health and Justice Director, Alaska Community Action on Toxics.

"Last year, congress passed the Janey Ensminger Act which will cover the health care expenses of those exposed to toxic chemicals at Camp Lejeune. Here in Alaska we have many formerly used military sites, such as the one at East Cape on St. Lawrence Island. Alaska Community Action on Toxics has been working to hold the military accountable in the clean up of these sites...." Pamela Miller, Executive Director, Alaska Community Action on Toxics.

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[Alaska Community Action on Toxics \(ACAT\)](http://AlaskaCommunityActiononToxics.org) is a statewide non-profit public interest environmental health research and advocacy organization dedicated to protecting environmental health and achieving environmental

justice. Alaska Community Action on Toxics *mission: to assure justice by advocating for environmental and community health. We believe that everyone has a right to clean air, clean water and toxic-free food.* We work to stop the production, proliferation, and release of toxic chemicals that may harm human health or the environment. For more information, please call 907-222-7714.

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