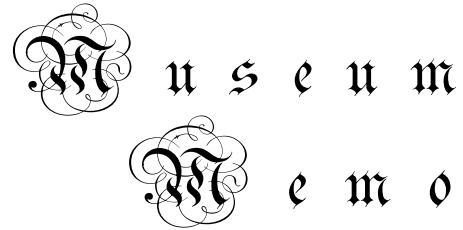




Alaska Veterans



Volume I No. 3

Eagle River, Alaska

October 4, 2005

Wheelchair Games set in Anchorage July 2-8, 2006

600 veterans expected to take part in nationals

By **FOREST C. BROOKS**

Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum

The 26th Annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) is coming to Anchorage next July. The games slogan is *Chasing the Midnight Sun*. There is a need for 2,000-2,500 volunteers in the local area to work before and during the events. .

The Local Organizing Committee is expecting 600 veteran athletes to participate in the NVWG from 2 through 8 July, 2006. All 600 athletes are scheduled to be together in downtown Anchorage participating in the 4th of July Parade.

Three years ago, George Pikus, a Kodiak Air Force Veteran, approached the Alaska Veterans Administration about hosting the games in Anchorage. His efforts through the Alaska Disabled Veterans Sports Program have made his dream come true. Unfortunately, George will not see the games, as he passed away earlier this year.

The NVWG are an outgrowth of the Department of Veterans Affairs' historic involvement in wheelchair

Continued on Page 7

\$10 prime rib, free AVMM votes set Nov. 5 at Eagle River VFW

Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum members, spouses and guests will enjoy \$10 prime rib and trimmings Nov. 5 at the AVMM Annual Dinner. Doors open at 5 p.m. at VFW Post 9785 in Eagle River, with dinner served at 6 p.m.

A short business meeting is scheduled at 7 p.m. There will be brief reports and three seats on the board are to be filled. Members will also be

asked to ratify an amendment to the Museum Bylaws.

Board President Roger Wortman urged all members and Museum supporters to attend.

"There will be a good time, good food and good fellowship," he said.

Those planning to have dinner are asked to RSVP to the Museum recorder at 694-2866 or by e-mail to akvetmusm@yahoo.com.

3 Board seats, Bylaws on Nov. 5 ballot

Three seats on the Board of Directors of Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum will be filled at the Nov. 5 Annual Dinner. Incumbents Al Romaszewski, John Peck and Karen Schussler all have agreed to seek new terms. Other members may be nominated from the floor.

Members also will be asked to ratify an amendment to the Bylaws so they comply with Alaska laws to allow the Museum to obtain a gaming permit in order to hold raffles. The added wording deals with disposition of assets.

Alfred (Al) Romaszewski joined the US Army as a draftee and attended flight school as a Warrant Office Candidate. After graduating flight school Chief Warrant Officer Romaszewski was stationed as an Aviator/Aircraft Maintenance Officer at various posts. He served one tour in Korea and two tours in Vietnam. After Vietnam he was transferred to Alaska, where he retired from the Army. He is the broker/owner of a real estate agency and lives in Eagle River. He is one of the founders of Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum, joining in February 2002.

John Peck lives in Eagle River and has worked for the Anchorage Fire Department since 1972. He is a veteran of the Navy, serving from 1961-65 with 3 years in the waters off Vietnam on the *USS Paricutin*, AE-18, and *USS Mars*, AFS1. He is a life member of VFW Post 9785 in Eagle River and a member of The American Legion Post 33 in Chugiak. He is a past member of the Loyal Order of Moose and is a 32nd-degree Mason and a Shriner. He has been a member of the Board of Directors since June 2004 and currently serves as Vice President.

Karen Schussler is a Special Education teacher assistant at Chugiak High School. She has been a member of the Board since January 2003 and is part of the committee arranging for the 2005 Annual Dinner.

BRAC: Eielson remains open; Kulis, Galena phased out

President George W. Bush has signed off on final recommendations of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, leaving Alaska Gov. Frank Murkowski satisfied, if not entirely pleased.

“Our efforts were able to achieve the best possible outcome for Alaska,” Murkowski said in a press release.

Eielson AFB will remain open, the federal government will pay more of the costs of moving Kulis Air National Guard operations to Elmendorf AFB and the closure of Galena Air Station will be phased over a longer period than initially proposed.

Fairbanks residents mounted a major offensive aimed at overturning the original BRAC plan to shut down most of Eielson AFB, keeping it “warm” for some training operations.

A massive turnout for hearings by the commission brought testimony that keeping the facility warm in such a cold environment would cost a large sum of money. More important, the state’s leaders said, it would deprive the Air Force of its largest training area. That argument prevailed when the commission voted to keep the base open. Eielson will lose an A-10 aircraft unit, but later will receive a different one in an offsetting move.

Galena had not been on the original closure list, but was added in June, close to the time hearings were held in Fairbanks. Murkowski

argued that the closure would be a severe blow to the economy of that remote area. Although the station will be closed, that will be done over an extended period to allow residents to cope with the loss of jobs.

Moving the Air Guard operations to Elmendorf was estimated by Air Force officials to cost \$75 to \$81 million. The BRAC commission, however, agreed with Murkowski that the actual cost would be in excess of \$121 million and recommended that the Air Force cover the higher cost.

(Continued on Page 7)

Forest Brooks is AVMM Founder, Secretary

Forest Clyde Brooks is one of the founders of the Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum and currently serves as Secretary on its Board of Directors. He works as a Senior Plan Formulator for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Elmendorf and lives in Eagle River with his wife of almost 28 years, Catherine.



FOREST BROOKS

After graduating from Seattle University with a BS in Civil Engineering, he worked for the Corps’ Seattle District for 31 years on studies, design, construction and operation of water resources projects. He transferred to a similar job in the Alaska District Office in June 2000.

In 1999, Brooks became a board member for the Centralia (now-Chehalis), Wash., Veterans Memorial Museum. That museum is dedicated

to the men and women who have honorably served our nation in its Armed Forces, during peacetime and war, so that we might enjoy the freedoms we have today. When he moved north, he brought with him the concept for a similar museum to honor individual Alaskan veterans and discussed it with state Rep. Pete Kott and Sen. Randy Phillips. He soon became active in the local effort to establish such a museum here.

His interest in honoring the military sprang most recently out of his wife’s work in the 80’s and 90’s first as Regional Chairman for Operation Freedom and then as Washington State President of the National Forget-Me-Not Association (founded to obtain full accounting for all POW-MIA’s and return of any still alive). He came from a family with military backgrounds, ancestors having fought in the Civil War, a grandfather in the Spanish-American War, and two uncles, who fought their way through Italy with the 10th Mountain Division in World War II.

Alaska Veterans

M u s e u m

M e m o

Published Quarterly by
Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum
P.O. Box 773364

Eagle River, Alaska 99577-3364
Telephone (907) 694-AVMM (2866)
www.AlaskaVeteransMemorialMuseum.org
www.alaskaveterans.org

Roger Wortman, President
John Peck, Vice-President
Forest Brooks, Secretary
Anna Fairclough, Treasurer
Al Romaszewski Director
Burt Mason, Director
Karen Schuessler, Director
Stacie Stevens, Director
Lee Jordan, Director

Honoring Veterans with the Pledge:
“They Shall Not Be Forgotten”

Anchorage hosts Veterans Wheelchair Games

(Continued from Page 1)

sports. In 1981, the first NVWG were held during the “International Year of the Disabled Person” at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia. That year, 74 veterans from 14 states competed in sports ranging from table tennis and billiards to swimming and weightlifting. Those first games established an enduring trait that has characterized the event ever since—a sense of common identity and camaraderie among the participants.

The 2005 games, held in Minneapolis, Minn., had about 500 wheelchair athletes attend from 44 states, Puerto Rico and Great Britain. Four Alaskans participated (Allen Johansen, Tom Wilson, Don Peters, and Susan Macaulay), bringing home a collective total of 7 gold medals, a silver medal, and a bronze medal.

In 1985, the Paralyzed Veterans of

America (PVA) became a co-sponsor of the games and recruited corporations to join in support of the games. This corporate help has enabled the games to grow both in number of competitors and variety of sports. The NVWG have become the largest annual wheelchair sporting event held anywhere in the world. In order to participate individuals must be veterans of the armed forces, have been honorably discharged and have a disability requiring the use of a wheelchair to compete.

For the Anchorage NVWG, 15 sports are planned and one exhibition sport. These include: Archery, Air Guns, Basketball, Bowling, Field Events, Hand Cycle, Motor Rally, Table Tennis, Power Soccer, Track Events, Quad Rugby, Weightlifting, Slalom, Swimming, Softball, and Sled Hockey (exhibition). The venues expected to be used during the

NVWG include Sullivan Arena, Egan Center, Bartlett High School, Polar Bowl, Delaney Parkstrip, Cellular One Arena and Tesoro Ice Arena.

Information on the Anchorage NVWG can be found at www.wheelchairgamesanchorage.org

Information for participants about the PVA can be found at www.pva.org.

Information for the Anchorage Local Organizing Committee can be found at their offices:

639 West International Airport
Road, Suite 26

Anchorage, Alaska 99518
(907) 276-5550

info@alaskadestinations.com

The Local Organizing Committee is asking for volunteers to help in many different areas. To get involved, contact Sarah McClelland at the above numbers or by email at volunteers@alaskadestinations.com.

Military has long history of assisting Alaskans

(Continued from Page 6)

men who were ascending the trail en route to the Klondike gold fields. His men pitched in to help recover and bury the dead.

Lawlessness continued in the port cities on Norton Sound where idle men sought ways to steal from those who were working. On July 10, 1899, at Anvil City (Nome), 2nd Lt. Oliver L. Spaulding, Jr. learned of a meeting underway at the Northern Saloon on Front Street. At the illegal “miners’ meeting,” connivers offered a motion to void existing claims and open all lands to new claims on a first-come, first-served basis. Spaulding declared the motion to be withdrawn and ordered the group to disperse. Moving to the street, the mob attempted to continue their effort to legalize claim jumping. Spaulding ordered his 10-man squad to fix bayonets and broke up the crowd.

Capt. Ray’s recommendation that

local government be established was finally accepted, but initially with near-disastrous results. The Nome court was run by a judge who fell in with the claim jumpers. Soldiers were called on to attempt to keep things under control and had their hands full until a new judge was assigned.

Now promoted to major, Ray was once more called on to step in after a disaster. A great storm on Sept. 12, 1900, destroyed more than \$1 million in property and left hundreds of people homeless. Buildings on one side of Front Street were destroyed and property littered the beach, pounced on by beachcombers and scavengers. Maj. Ray ordered troops to stand guard to prevent looting and decreed that the demolished buildings would not be replaced. After many violent clashes and arrests, the troops gained control and civility was realized.

By 1901 the people finally had

confidence in the court and law and order was established. The Department of Alaska was discontinued by General Orders 97, 24 July 1901 and Brig. Gen. George M. Randall was relieved in September.

The military’s early role in Alaska was unscripted, but successful. It was summed up well by Gen. Adolphus W. Greely:

“This unauthorized exercise of general police authority over interior and western Alaska was not only accepted as indispensable for the security of person and property, but was also viewed as fully justified by the law of the frontier. Moreover, it was so impartially and judiciously administered as to give almost universal satisfaction, and indeed, a desire for the return of military sway was not infrequently heard during the first unfortunate and stormy year of jurisdiction of the General Court at Nome.”

VA Clinic, USAF Hospital provide medical care

Qualified Alaska veterans need not look outside the state for health care. A combined Medical and Regional Office Center is operated in Anchorage by the Veterans Administration. Outpatient clinics are located in Fairbanks and Kenai.

More than 22,500 of Alaska's veterans are enrolled for VA health care services. In Fiscal Year 2004, nearly two-thirds of those veterans made a total of 90,921 visits to VA clinics. Another 44,291 visits to private providers were purchased from the region's \$100 million health care budget.

With about 72,000 veterans residing in Alaska, the number who are enrolled leaves another 50,000 who have not signed up.

"We advise veterans not to wait to apply," said Marcia Hoffman-DeVoe, public affairs officer for the VA here. "They should be prepared by enrolling before there is a medical need."

In addition to a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge, a form showing the person's financial situation is required. That information, which is confidential, is used to determine the amount of co-payment that might be required. There generally is no charge for veterans with 100 percent service-connected disability, but varying co-pay scales may apply to other veterans.

The Anchorage clinic is located adjacent to Alaska Regional Hospital on DeBarr Rd. It provides a wide range of in-house health care services, including primary care, surgery that does not require hospitalization, audiology, dental care, radiology and medical laboratory. The clinic can provide treatment for various addictions and offers social work to those in need. Special services such

as general surgery, ophthalmology, urology and podiatry are also available through the clinic.

A pharmacy is operated by the Anchorage clinic, supplying medicines prescribed by the physicians on staff. There are various categories of eligibility for medicines with requirements for co-payments by some veterans.

Emergency treatment and inpatient care are available at the Air Force Hospital at Elmendorf AFB where a joint facility agreement is in effect. Plans are in the works to build a replacement VA outpatient clinic near the current hospital on Elmendorf. The Air Force has made available a 10-acre parcel of land where construction is proposed for 2006.

Completion would be in 2008.

The Fairbanks clinic is located in Bassett Army Community Hospital on Ft. Wainwright. Its list of services includes primary care, mental health, health promotion, orthopedics, audiology and care management.

A clinic was established in Kenai in 2001. It provides primary care, audiology, podiatry and mental health services.

Under certain conditions, veterans may receive medical care from private health providers.

Veterans wishing to check into their eligibility or to enroll with the VA may do so by visiting the regional office at 2925 DeBarr Road in Anchorage. They may also obtain forms on-line at www.va.gov.

I Got Your Back

By Autumn Parker

I am a small and precious child, my
dad's been sent to fight...

The only place I'll see his face, is in
my dreams at night.

He will be gone too many days for
my young mind to keep track.

I may be sad, but I am proud.

My daddy's got your back.

I am a caring mother; my son has
gone to war...

My mind is filled with worries that I
have never known before.

Everyday I try to keep my thoughts
from turning black.

I may be scared, but I am proud.

My son has got your back.

I am a strong and loving wife, with
a husband soon to go.

There are times I'm terrified, in a
way most never know.

I bite my lip, and force a smile, as I
watch my husband pack...

My heart may break, but I am
proud.

My husband's got your back...

I am a soldier...

Serving proudly, standing tall.

I fight for freedom, yours and mine,
by answering this call.

I do my job while knowing the
thanks it sometimes lacks.

Say a prayer that I'll come home.

It's me who's got your back.

This poem was written by Autumn Parker as a personal tribute to her Green Beret husband while he was serving overseas. It was the inspiration behind the creation of OperationHomelink.org, whose mission is to obtain computers to share with military families so they can keep in contact with servicemembers who are deployed.

Poem copyright (c) Operation Homelink. Used by permission.

VA brings wide range of services to Alaskans

Alaska, with the highest proportion of veterans among its population, offers them a wide range of services. The state's veterans number 71,552, a figure that is 17.1 percent of its total population. Of those, nearly one-third have enrolled with the Veterans Administration, according to Marcia Hoffman-DeVoe, VA public affairs officer.

A breakdown of Alaska veterans based on wartime service shows that 8 percent date to World War II and a like amount to the Korean conflict. The largest number, 42 percent, served during the Vietnam era. The remainder served in the Persian Gulf, from 1991 to the present time.

Health care is the service most used by veterans, Hoffman-DeVoe said, partly because all who enroll must go through the clinic as part of

their eligibility determination. Even so, 90,921 visits to the Alaska VA facilities were made by 13,006 veterans in 2004.

The budget for Alaska's VA includes \$100 million for health care, the spokesperson said. Another \$110 million is paid out in benefits.

"That's a lot of money contributed to the state economy," Hoffman-DeVoe said.

In addition to those taking advantage of VA health care, 12,359 veterans and survivors collected disability compensation or pension payments. Another 1,247 used the GI Bill for education assistance. VA home loans worth \$539.3 million were guaranteed for 3,3046 veterans.

An important but little-publicized VA service is the comprehensive program for homeless veterans. The

Alaska VA operates a 50-bed domiciliary residential rehabilitation treatment program, a compensated work therapy program, veterans industries program and a community-based transitional housing program.

Military members with honorable or general discharges are eligible for most VA benefits. Full-time active service as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard is counted. Reserve and National Guard troops may be eligible for some VA benefits if they were activated during a period of war or domestic emergency.

Information on eligibility is available online at www.va.gov or by visiting the Alaska VA Healthcare System and Regional Office at 2925 DeBarr Rd., adjacent to Alaska Regional Hospital in Anchorage.

National cemeteries provide final resting places for vets

National cemeteries at Sitka and Fort Richardson provide final resting places for eligible veterans and their spouses. As of July 1, 2004, 213 individuals were interred at the two sites operated by the National Cemetery Administration.

According to information from the Alaska VA Healthcare System and Regional Office in Anchorage, spouses and minor children of service members and eligible veterans also may be buried in a national cemetery.

The VA also provides bronze

grave markers for veterans who are interred in cemeteries other than the national cemeteries. Raised letters on the plaques show the veteran's name, rank, branch and dates of service.

Information about burial in a national cemetery is available by calling the Ft. Richardson National Cemetery at 907-384-7075. Inquiries about burial or the grave markers may also be directed to the VA benefits office toll free number at 1-800-827-1000.

Complete information about eligibility for VA benefits is available at www.va.gov or by contacting the Regional Office at 2925 DeBarr Rd. in Anchorage.

Nursing home care gets limited benefits

While some veterans qualify for indefinite nursing home care, other veterans may qualify only for short-term services. Among those who automatically qualify for indefinite nursing home care are veterans whose service-connected condition is clinically determined to require nursing home care and veterans with a service-connected rating of 70 percent or more. Other veterans—with priority given to those with service-connected conditions—may be provided short-term nursing home care if space and resources are available.

Skilled home care is provided by VA and contract agencies to veterans who are homebound with chronic diseases and includes nursing, physical/occupational therapy and social services.

Military has history of aiding needy Alaskans

By **LEE JORDAN**
AVMM Museum Memo

Disasters caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita saw thousands of active duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel taking part in relief efforts.

Alaska may not be in the path of hurricanes spawned in the Caribbean, but this northern locale has its share of emergencies. And the Great Land benefits from the helping hands of the military today, just as it has in the years since 1867 when Brig. Gen. Lovell H. Rousseau accepted transfer of Russian America to the United States.

The waters off Alaska are home to the world's most delectable seafood. Those waters also are the world's deadliest, claiming the lives of many who brave fierce storms to harvest that seafood. Rendering aid when things go wrong are the men and women of the Coast Guard.

Representing one-fifth of the land area and with more coastline than all the rest of the United States, Alaska's vastness is sparsely populated. Mt. McKinley, North America's highest peak, attracts adventurers who challenge its cliffs—and who often encounter difficulties. Alaska's wilderness is home to huge game animals, trophies and meat that attract hunters who also at times encounter difficulties. There are more small aircraft per capita than in other states—planes whose pilots occasionally find themselves in trouble.

Responding to those emergencies are Alaska's members of the military. For many years, the U.S. Air Force's 10th Air Rescue Squadron was the one called out. Now, the Alaska Air Guard, assisted by the Civil Air Patrol, fulfills that responsibility.

Alaska's largest natural disaster occurred on March 27, 1964, when the ground shook for more than five minutes. At 5:36 p.m. on that Good Friday, the strongest earthquake ever recorded on North America struck South Central Alaska. Measuring 9.2 on the Richter Scale and centered in the Gulf of Alaska south of Cordova, the shock generated tsunamis that struck Crescent City, Calif. and the Hawaiian Islands.

Although their own installations were damaged, the military responded to the

needs of the civilian community. The Military Amateur Radio Service made contact with Outside operators, patching through telephone calls and transmitting messages to let friends and relatives know that people here were OK. The Army in Anchorage provided potable water and stood ready to take in people whose homes were destroyed. In Kodiak, the Navy and Coast Guard pitched in to help restore order and clean up the debris.

Alaskans have benefited from the military's assistance from the beginning. Following the transfer from Russia, the Army was the primary government presence in the new territory. For a full decade, soldiers kept the peace and oversaw the administration of services.

Saying the forces were needed to help fight Indians in the West, the War Department in 1877 ordered Army troops out of Alaska. Because most of the local concerns had involved regulation of liquor and firearms, Washington decided the Treasury Department should administer the new land and the tax collector was put in charge.

Absent the presence of uniformed officials, trouble began to brew along with the hootch. Although prohibited, liquor nevertheless flowed freely. Attempts to control the possession of firearms met the same resistance such proposals face in modern times. Natives who had bristled at control by the soldiers asserted displeasure with the settlers. Merchants and traders who saw an opportunity to increase profits did so at the expense of ethics and consideration of the population's needs.

Fearing for their lives and property, concerned residents sent an urgent plea for troops to come to their defense. When none came as quickly as expected, Sitkans turned to officials in Canada. *HMS Osprey*, under command of Capt. H. Holmes A'Court, soon dropped anchor and sent marines ashore.

The request for protection had not gone unheeded, however. The *USS Alaska* showed up, then was relieved soon afterwards by the *USS Jamestown*.

Commander Lester Anthony Beardslee of the *Jamestown* proved to be a capable administrator, at least as far

as dealing with the Indians. He convinced them to set up tribal governments and police their own people. But when he attempted to re-establish a provisional government by the settlers, he found them unwilling to enforce regulations or punish even minor offenses.

Beardslee was credited with starting schools, encouraging economic development, bringing in missionaries and avoiding wars with the Natives.

Leading up to and during the Gold Rush, the Army was called upon to explore Alaska and provide information.

Capt. Patrick Henry Ray of the 8th Infantry, assisted by 1st Lt. Wilds Preston Richardson, was dispatched in August 1897 to report on conditions in Alaska and make recommendations for maintaining law and order. Arriving at St. Michael, the two men heard rumors that hundreds were stranded on the Yukon and faced starvation as winter approached. Traveling upriver toward the Klondike, they found about 1,200 people stuck between St. Michael and Fort Yukon, about half of them in need of food.

Hoodlums at St. Michael were threatening to take over both trading posts, planning to profit by selling provisions at exorbitant prices. The two officers took possession of the warehouses of both companies. Ray then arranged for the destitute travelers to cut firewood for use on the steam-driven riverboats, receiving their pay in supplies. The North American Transportation and Trading Company then paid the Alaska Commercial Company for the firewood.

The plan was a winner all around: Stranded travelers were able to earn needed supplies, the merchants were paid for their goods, the transportation company had plenty of firewood to drive its sternwheelers and the government did not have to expend money to take care of the able-bodied men who were stranded while waiting to get to the goldfields.

Capt. Edwin F. Glenn of the 25th Infantry on April 14, 1898, visited Dyea just after an avalanche killed nearly 100

(Continued on page 7)

USS Arizona flag, proclamation in AVMM exhibits

Among many other treasured items, the Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum is holding an American Flag flown over the *USS Arizona* on December 7, 1988, and the original copy of an official State of Alaska Proclamation “making December 7, 1994, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day in Alaska.”

The items were among several artifacts donated to AVMM by the North Star Chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. That organization in the summer of 2004 voted to disband and distribute its assets among various entities serving veterans in the state. Its cash reserves were donated to groups whose mission is to help the families of deceased service members.

Dissolution of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association in Alaska was deemed necessary “due to the shrinking numbers of remaining survivors and their ongoing health problems.”

“These and other materials serve as important symbols of our nation’s most memorable times,” said AVMM President Roger Wortman. “The flag and proclamation will be living reminders of the sacrifice of so many brave Americans in the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

“Preservation of these symbols and the stories of those who served in trying times are part of our mission to see that “They Shall Not Be Forgotten,”” Wortman said.

Because of the volume of items being added to the exhibit collection, the Board has obtained secure storage space until the museum is able to have its own building.

Veterans Day observances scheduled across Alaska

On Nov. 11, in ceremonies around the state, Alaskans will honor all those who have served in our country’s military forces.

The traditional Veterans Day observance will be held at 11 a.m. Nov. 11 at the Fort Richardson National Cemetery. Observances also are scheduled in Fairbanks and Juneau and various other locations designated by local veterans groups.

In Anchorage, a Veterans Concert has been scheduled Thursday evening, Nov. 10 at the Atwood Concert Hall in the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. A reception will be held at 6 p.m. with the concert to start at 7:30. Although admission is free, tickets will be required and will be available at the door, according to Ric Davidge of Alaska Veterans Foundation.

A Heroes’ Banquet honoring

State satisfied with base closure results

(Continued from Page 2)

Murkowski pointed out that movement of the 176th Wing from Kulis to Elmendorf “will take several years.” Once the move is completed, “the state will work through the International Airport to recommit the 130 acres occupied by the National Guard to support growing civilian operations.”

A “massive statewide effort” was conducted to defend against the closures and the governor thanked all who worked to gain the concessions.

members of Alaska’s Territorial Guard will be held Nov. 9, Davidge said. A special medal has been struck and will be presented to the surviving members of that unit which served prior to Statehood.

Information on the concert and banquet is available from Davidge at 222-6945.

Initially known as Armistice Day, the occasion commemorates the end of hostilities of the “war to end all wars.” The actual armistice was signed later at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Observed on the anniversary thereafter, it was made a legal holiday by Congress in 1938.

Veterans groups later pointed out that World War II involved a larger mobilization of troops and America had been involved in the Korean conflict. Their appeals to Congress resulted in a change of name to Veterans Day in 1954.

Thousands of volunteers turned out to greet the commissioners and many spoke, including Mark Hamilton, president of the University of Alaska, and Pat Gamble of The Alaska Railroad—both of whom are retired general officers. The Legislature and city and borough governments also participated in the effort to avoid the severe economic impact associated with base closures.

“Seen in any light, we succeeded,” Murkowski said.

Want to be on the *Museum Memo* mailing list?

e-mail name and address to leebee@mtaonline.net

'Coffee money' membership fee put to good use

Membership fee in the Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum is \$25 per year for veterans, and even less for active duty personnel and members of the National Guard and Reserve.

"In this early stage while we're still in the process of obtaining a structure to house exhibits that commemorate the service of those who have served our country over the years, some people might question the value of membership," said Roger Wortman, AVMM president.

"I would point out, though, that helping to make this vision a reality is the most important time of all. For the price of a couple of cups of coffee each month, good things can happen."

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To: Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum
P.O. Box 773364
Eagle River, Alaska 99577-3364



I want to help make the Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum successful and wish to become a member.

Membership Type:

- Veteran [\$25] Active, Reserve, Guard [\$20] Adult [\$30]
- Senior (55+) [\$25] Student (under 18) [\$15] Family [\$50]
- Organization Business Institution Governmental Entity [ea. \$300]

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

e-mail address _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Signed _____ Date _____



PRE-SORT STD
NON-PROFIT
POSTAGE PAID
EAGLE RIVER,
AK 99577
PERMIT NO. 60

P.O. Box 773364 • Eagle River, AK 99577-3364

