



Alaska Veterans Museum Memo

Volume 4 No. 1

Eagle River, Alaska

1st Quarter, 2008

AVMM, National Guard eye joint effort

AK Adjutant General outlines possibilities in November speech

Preliminary conversations have begun between the Alaska National Guard and Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum to consider a joint venture possibility proposed by MG Craig Campbell, Alaska Adjutant General and Commissioner of Veterans Affairs

During the keynote speech at the AVMM Annual Meeting Nov. 10, Campbell called for creation of a first-class museum to honor the contribution of the military to Alaska's history. Pointing to various individual efforts to create museums, he said his vision was "too big for any one of us to accomplish on our own."

Campbell tasked BG Thomas Katkus as coordinator to work with AVMM and other groups that might become involved

with the project. AVMM President Suellyn Novak and board member Lee Jordan later met with Katkus to discuss steps to be taken in an attempt to make other services and veterans groups aware of the effort. A list of representatives is being prepared so they can be invited to an initial meeting to discuss the idea. "We are very excited at the prospect that a joint effort could lead to a museum worthy of Alaska's military contribution," Novak said

"The Alaska National Guard has long been planning to showcase displays and exhibits to demonstrate the history of military activities in our state," she said. "A state agency is the logical one to help establish some form of oversight group

to assure permanent oversight and maintenance of an Alaska veterans and military museum."

All branches of the armed services have been significantly involved in Alaska since 1867 when it was purchased from Russia.

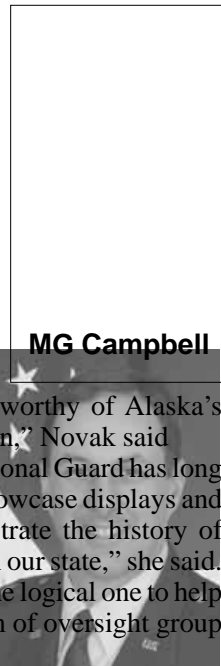
The Army, in fact, presided at the transfer ceremony and actually governed the new possession for several years.

Described as "Top cover for America," the Air Force utilizes Alaska's polar position to advantage in patrolling the skies. That strategic alignment has been valuable to the nation's defense.

The U.S. Navy also had a turn as administrator for the territory in the days before civilian government was established. Naval presence continues to play a major role.

Having a longer coastline than the rest of the entire country, Alaska depends heavily on the U.S. Coast Guard. Their cutters are called upon to assist vessels

(See JOINTMUSEUM, Page 7)



MG Campbell

Annual meeting fills Board seats, adopts revised bylaws

The Nov. 10 annual dinner meeting and fund-raiser for Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum was well attended and drew much favorable comment. Members and guests enjoyed a prime rib dinner served at the Native Heritage Center.

Highlight of the meeting was the keynote speech delivered by Major General Craig Campbell, commander of the Alaska National Guard, Adjutant General for Alaska and Commissioner of Military and Veterans Affairs (see lead article above).

Outgoing President Roger Wortman chaired a short business meeting which saw the election of directors and adoption of extensive amendments to the

organization's bylaws.

Joining the Board of Directors is Wayne Anthony Ross, an Anchorage attorney and charter member of AVMM. Re-elected to a three-year term was outgoing president Roger Wortman.

Major changes to the Bylaws drew little discussion before gaining approval.

Considerable wording was deleted to remove details that were important to the organizational effort but now are established and addressed as policy.

Major changes involve a limit of two consecutive three-year terms for directors, officers now will be elected by the board rather than members and vacancies will be filled by the board rather than appointed by the president. Also part of

the change is inclusion of Merchant Marine to the list of active duty/veteran membership status.

Following the annual meeting, directors elected Suellyn Wright Novak as president. A retired Air Force colonel, she has been very active with the Museum and looks forward to seeing its plans continue to move forward.

Vice president John Peck and Secretary Forrest Brooks will continue in those posts until the 2008 annual meeting.

At the February board meeting, Forrest Powell III was appointed to fill a vacancy and elected as treasurer. National Service Officer with the Military Order of the Purple Heart, he has an office in the Chugiak Senior Center.

President's Corner

Col. Suellyn Wright Novak, USAF, Ret.
President, Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum



on a grant from the Downtown (Anchorage) Rotary to help us with our business case analysis and other paperwork through the Foraker Group.

We continue to "get the word out" by briefing patriotic and service organizations. In 2008 we have briefed the Anchorage Women's Club, the Pioneers of Alaska and are going to the Prospector's Society, the Downtown (Anchorage) Lions and the Newcomers and Old Timers. We are compiling long lists of eligible oral history candidates and are training a new interviewer, our Chief of Publicity, Karen "Kandy" Kizis.

Jump on quick or you'll miss our fast moving train! Have a fan-damn-tastic 2008!

AVMM will again march in July 4, Bear Paw parades

Board members at the March meeting voted to participate in the 2008 parades in Chugiak-Eagle River.

First will be the Chugiak Independence Day parade, followed by the mid-July Bear Paw Parade.

Members will have a close interest in the Bear Paw, where proceeds from the Slippery Salmon Olympics this year will be presented to AVMM.

Welcome to the most exciting year in the short history of the Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum effort! This is the year we start an avalanche of activity, so jump on board or miss all the fun and excitement.

AVMM will be the recipient of the proceeds from the Slippery Salmon Olympics at this year's Bear Paw Festival. Thank you, Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce.

AVMM is now on the Board of Directors of the Alaska Museum Fund, Inc., the funding arm of the Alaska National Guard Museum effort, and on the Board of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA). These boards allow us access to and the opportunity to publicize and raise funds for the museum effort. The idea here is to combine forces in a joint venture to get a veterans museum built.

The reality is that if each of us (AVMM, the National Guard and the

Cold War Museum, tries to build a museum, statistically at least two will fail. As we all wish to build a museum to honor all of Alaska's veterans, it only makes economic sense to join forces.

There will be meetings to get all our constituents on board with our effort. We envision representation on the "joint" board from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. Thereby all services are represented, just as they are in our recruiting/fundraising DVD.

At the Alaska Museum Fund Inc. meeting we were told that the future is bright in that our joint efforts most likely will result in a building to house exhibits for a period of time until a permanent museum can be built. We could be setting up our museum in 2010.

We were notified by phone that our Friends of the NRA grant for oral history transcription was approved in the amount of \$5,000. We are awaiting word

Forrest Powell III elected as treasurer

Forrest Powell III, National Service Officer for the Military Order of the Purple Heart, has been appointed to the Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum Board of Directors and elected as its treasurer.

A Wasilla resident, Powell is a combat-weathered Navy veteran of 24 years with eight tours in Iraq. He is married and has two children, ages 13 and 15.

Although not awarded the Purple Heart himself, Powell said he became familiar with the organization when injured servicemembers were cared for on his ships.

"I became a veterans' advocate after I met a VFW service officer" and learned of the work that needed to be done in that field. He has been involved with the Military Order of the Public Heart since September 2007.

Powell has an office in the Chugiak Senior Center, Mile 21, Old Glenn Highway in Chugiak.

He said he was pleased to learn of the Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum and was glad to join after finding more about its programs.

"Alaska has a rich history with the military that needs to be recognized," he said.



Forrest Powell III

Alaska Veterans Museum Memo

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

Suellyn Wright Novak, President
John Peck, Vice-President
Forest Brooks, Secretary
Forrest Powell III, Treasurer
Anna Fairclough, Director
Wayne Anthony Ross, Director
Karen Schuessler, Director
Roger Wortman, Director
Lee Jordan, Director
Karen "Kandy" Kizis, Publicity Chief

Honoring Veterans with the Pledge:
"They Shall Not Be Forgotten"



MUSEUM MEMO PHOTO BY LEE JORDAN

Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum Board of Directors at its March meeting launched an expanded outreach program to acquaint veterans with the organization's plans. Directors voted to add membership in the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce to their presence in the Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber. During her report, President Suellyn Novak recited a long list of contacts with organizations where she had appeared to show the AVMM video and describe the museum's plans. Pictured are, from left to right, Hal Rodgers, Wayne Anthony Ross, Roger Wortman, Suellyn Novak, Forrest Powell iii, Diane Fearon and Karen Schuessler. Not shown are John Peck, Forest Brooks and Lee Jordan.

Friends of NRA \$5,000 grant to begin history transcription

A giant-sized check in the amount of \$5,000 was presented at the Friends of NRA banquet Mar 29 to AVMM President Suellyn Novak. It is to be used to begin transcription of interviews included in the Museum's Oral History program.

More than 50 interviews of veterans have been video-taped as of this date.

Recollections of the veterans are being preserved for the future. They range from stories of three members of the fabled Alaska Scouts of World War II and a scientist involved in the atomic weapon Manhattan Project to more recent conflicts.

Included are veterans of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Merchant Marine and National Guard. Among them are stories

of Prisoners of War such as Emil F. "Joe" Opalka, who spent time in a German prisoner of war camp after his B-24 was shot down.

Another interview to be preserved in written form as well as visually is with Herbert "Glen" Glenzer, a pilot who flew from the aircraft carriers *Lexington* and *Wasp* during World War II and Korea.

"It was a real pleasure to receive this generous grant," Novak said. "It will let us begin the important task of putting these stories in text that can be retrieved and used for reference many years into the future."

The AVMM Oral History Committee continues to seek names of veterans whose personal stories would be of value to those who seek that information

AVMM plans table at Women's Show

A table staffed by AVMM volunteers will be set up Saturday, May 10 at the Women's Show at Harry McDonald Memorial Center in Eagle River.

AVMM President Suellyn Novak said it will be an opportunity to publicize the contributions of women to America's security throughout the nation's history.

Several representatives of units that were made up of female service members have recently begun organizing.

"This will be a great way to let them know we support their efforts," Novak said.

Although it was not until World War II that women's units began to gain wide recognition, Novak said that individual women have played a heroic part in the nation's fight for freedom over the years.

"Their service should not be forgotten," she said.

Rendezvous with destiny--

Alaska site of Civil War's last shot;

CSS Shenandoah snares whaling fleet in Bering Sea, then surrenders in England

By GEORGE DARROW

Alaska occupies a unique niche in American military history. This state's involvement in American affairs begins with the American Civil War and continues through today's wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. When you read military history you usually read about the major campaigns and actions, but you seldom hear about the common soldiers, sailors, airmen or marines. Stories by and about the common military man or woman are part of our life and history. Lose these stories and part of our heritage is gone forever.

Let me tell you about the Confederate commerce raider *CSS Shenandoah* and her rendezvous with destiny, for the *Shenandoah* would go on to fire the last shot of the American Civil War in the Bering Sea off what was then Russian America. It is also a tale of deceit, treachery and chivalry on the high seas.

Our story began in early October, 1864, when the British ship *Sea King*, under the command of Capt. Peter Corbett, departed Liverpool with a load of coal for London. The *Sea King* had recently been surreptitiously bought by Confederate Navy Commander James D. Bulloch, who represented the secessionist states in Great Britain.

On Oct. 8 the *Sea King*, still under the command of Capt. Corbett, left London enroute to Bombay, India. When she reached Madeira Island in the South Atlantic Ocean the *Sea King* rendezvoused with the *Laurel* in the Bay of Funchal. Here Corbett received a bill of sale from Lt. James Iredell Waddell of the Confederate States Navy and the *Sea King* was renamed the *CSS Shenandoah*.

After taking on supplies and arms including four cannons, the *Shenandoah*, requiring a crew of 150, set forth upon her fateful cruise with a crew of only 42. Additional crew members were later picked up from vessels captured by the



AVMM Volunteer George Darrow is a military historian. He is very active with the Museum's Oral History program. Museum Memo Photo

clandestine tri-masted Rebel warship.

I would like to mention here that the *Shenandoah* had some peculiarities of design that made her ideal as a commerce raider. The *Shenandoah* was a combined screw-driven steamship and sailing vessel that had a collapsible ship's funnel and a raiseable propeller. This allowed her to conserve the coal that was used as both fuel and ballast, and to alter her appearance.

Shenandoah's Mission: Inflict economic damage

The mission of the *Shenandoah* and other Confederate commerce raiders was to damage the Northern economy by damaging Yankee shipping. During this period in American history whaling was a major industry. Even though it began a decline in the 1860s it still supplied such commodities as whale oil for lamp fuel and fine lubricants for clockworks as well as foodstuffs, animal feed and fertilizer. Whalebone (what we call baleen) was used in corset stays.

Waddell's method of attacking shipping was to have the *Shenandoah* fly the flag of a foreign country until he could get within cannon range of the target. He would then lower the foreign flag, raise

the Confederate flag, and place a cannon shot across the bow of the ship being pursued. All of the ships pursued by the *Shenandoah* were either unarmed merchantmen or whaling ships. After safely removing their crews and any supplies that the *Shenandoah* might need, the ships were burned.

Between Oct. 29 and Dec. 7 the *Shenandoah* captured and burned eight merchant vessels and four whaling ships in the South Atlantic Ocean. The crews of these vessels were dropped off in Tristan Da Cunha on Dec. 7 and the *Shenandoah* departed for Melbourne, Australia. While on the way, she burned the merchant vessel *Delphine*, commanded by Capt. William Green Nichols, on Dec. 29 west of St. Paul Island in the Indian Ocean. Those aboard the *Delphine* included Nichols' wife and daughter.

Jan. 25, 1865, found the *Shenandoah* entering Port Phillip Bay in Melbourne, Australia. After dropping anchor in the bay, Waddell sent a message to Sir Charles Darling, the governor of the state of Victoria, announcing his arrival. The prisoners from the *Delphine* were released, and the following day Capt. Nichols and his family went to William Blanchard, the U.S. Consul in Melbourne, to let him know that the *Shenandoah* was in town.

U.S. Consul asked to have marauder sunk

Blanchard immediately sent a letter to Charles Francis Adams, the U.S. Minister in London, informing him of the ship's description and apparent condition, which was reportedly poor. Blanchard also sent a copy of this letter to the U.S. Consul in Hong Kong along with a note asking for a U.S. Navy cruiser to sink the *Shenandoah*.

By the end of May, having burned the whaling ships *Edward Carey*, *Pearl*, *Hector* and *Harvest* in the Pacific Ocean, the *Shenandoah* was cruising in the Sea of Okhotsk off of the coast of Siberia. On May 27 she encountered the New Bedford whaling ship *Abigail* under the command of Capt. Ebenezer F. Nye. Waddell had

(Continued on Page 5)

Ship fights on, unsure South done

(Continued from Page 4)

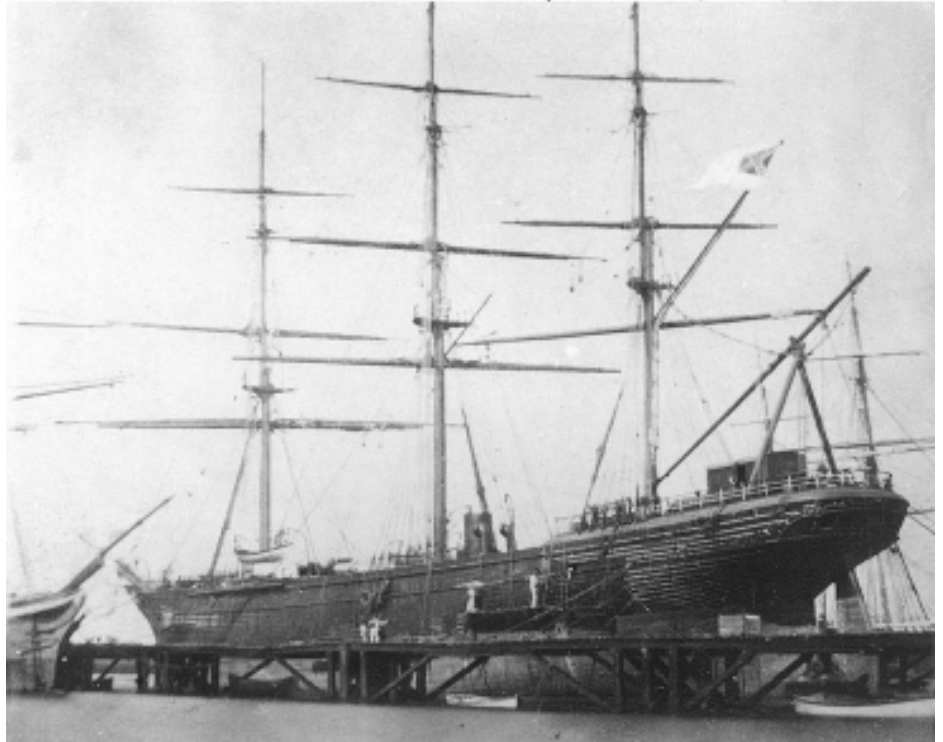
the Russian flag raised on the *Shenandoah*, which caused Nye, believing the ship to be Russian, to sail the *Abigail* toward the *Shenandoah*. Nye realized his mistake only after boarding parties were on board the *Abigail*. The crew of the *Shenandoah* took two days to transfer the crew and cargo of the *Abigail*, after which the *Abigail* was burned. Several members of the *Abigail*'s crew, including Second Mate Thomas Manning of Maryland, who volunteered to pilot the *Shenandoah* to the rest of the whaling fleet, decided to join the crew of the *Shenandoah*.

On June 22 the *Shenandoah* burned the New Bedford whaling ships *Euphrates* and *William Thompson* off Cape Thaddeus. The officers and crew of the *William Thompson* had been in port in California on April 22 and had received word of the assassination of President Lincoln, the attempted assassination of William Seward, the fall of Richmond and Charleston, and the surrender of Robert E. Lee. This news was passed on to the officers and crew of the *Shenandoah*, but it was not believed.

News of Lee's surrender believed to be Yankee lies

When the boarding crews returned to the *Shenandoah* from the *William Thompson* they brought an armload of newspapers from California along with seven barrels of liquor, a gallon of gin, a gallon of brandy, three kegs of rum and ten pigs. The newspapers contained copies of official letters from generals Lee and Grant. They also stated that Charleston had fallen and Richmond and Petersburg had been evacuated. Thinking that these accounts might be Yankee lies, they were not believed.

On June 23 the *Shenandoah* encountered the trading vessel *Susan Abigail* that was under the command of Capt. R.R. Redfield. The *Susan Abigail* had a cargo of trade goods for the local Eskimos, and had some newspapers from San Francisco that contained reports that Gen. Robert E. Lee had not surrendered at Appomattox but had fled to North Carolina and joined forces with Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. According to these reports the Confederate government had moved to Virginia.



Confederate raider CSS *Shenandoah* circumnavigated globe, capturing 38 American whaling ships, releasing three and burning rest.

On June 27, Waddell wrote a shipboard letter stating that one of these newspapers had a proclamation from President Jefferson Davis at Danville, Virginia, urging people to carry on with the war. Waddell may have written this letter in an attempt to protect himself from any potential future criminal charges. By this time the Confederate government had ceased to exist, but Waddell and many members of his crew had not been in the southern United States for several years and were not fully aware of the situation in the south, so it was easy for them to believe that the people at home were still fighting.

Despite all previous indication that the war was in fact over, the *Shenandoah* continued her cruise, overcoming and burning many more unarmed whaling ships.

200 prisoners towed in whaleboats released in captured ship

By June, after capturing or burning more than a dozen ships, the *Shenandoah* had over 200 prisoners under tow in 12 whaleboats, and Capt. Waddell feared they might mutiny. He therefore agreed to

bond one of them, the *General Pike*, for \$30,000 after which the *General Pike* sailed directly to San Francisco with the prisoners aboard on June 26.

The *Shenandoah* had her rendezvous with destiny on June 28, 1865.

At 6:45 a.m. the *Shenandoah* was 12 miles southwest of the Diomed Islands when her lookouts spotted 10 sails to the north and another to the south. The one to the south proved to be the New Bedford whaler *Waverly* and was closer, so she was the first target. Capturing the *Waverly* and putting her to the torch by 10 a.m., the *Shenandoah* next turned her attention to the other 10 sails.

On June 28 Capt. Potter of the *Brunswick*, which had struck an ice floe the previous day and was slowly sinking, was auctioning off what he could from his sinking ship to the captains of the responding whaling ships. Then someone spotted the smoke from a steamship that was approaching from the south. As it approached this steamship displayed the U.S. flag and Capt. Potter assumed that it was a ship belonging to the Western Union

(Continued on page 6)

Rebel ship circumnavigates globe

(Continued from Page 5)

Telegraph Expedition which had been expected in the area. Potter dispatched a boat to the new arrival to see if she would offer passage to the crew and officers of the *Brunswick*.

Alas! The new arrival proved to be the *Shenandoah* sailing under false colors. When she had lowered all boarding parties into their boats the *Shenandoah* turned broadside onto the gathered whaling fleet and fired a warning shot.

This capture of the Yankee whaling fleet was the last combat action of the Civil War and the warning shot fired was the last shot of that war. The *Shenandoah* burned all of these vessels with the exception of the *James Maury*.

On June 29 the *Shenandoah* headed north through the Bering Strait, encountered ice, and turned south. By July 5 she was transiting in fog from the Bering Sea to the North Pacific Ocean via Amukta Pass in the Aleutian Islands.

On Aug. 2 the *Shenandoah* was off the coast of Mexico when she encountered the English bark *Barracouta*, which was 13 days out of San Francisco. A boarding crew boarded the ship and brought back newspapers from California and Germany. These papers reported that President

Jefferson Davis and Vice President Alexander Stephens were being held by the United States Government

They also brought a copy of a letter from Confederate Navy Commander James Bulloch ordering Capt. Waddell to cease all combat operations and to take care of his ship and crew. This time the newspaper reports and the letter were believed.

The officers of the *Barracouta* also told Capt. Waddell that several U.S. cruisers and a British man-of-war were looking for the *Shenandoah*. On this date the *Shenandoah* legally became a ship without a country.

Reality check:

Waddell fears piracy charges

Being concerned about charges of piracy, and to avoid attracting the scrutiny of any passing warships, Waddell ordered the immediate disarming of the ship and its personnel. He also had the ship returned to its merchant vessel appearance. After hovering in indecision for two days Waddell went before the assembled ship's company and informed them that he intended to take the ship to the nearest English port, but he failed to mention which

port.

On Aug. 17 the *Shenandoah* crossed the equator en route to Cape Horn. On Sept. 29, 1865, the northbound *Shenandoah* crossed the exact same point on the globe that the southbound *Shenandoah* had passed in December, 1864. This made the *Shenandoah* the only Confederate ship ever to have circumnavigated the globe..

Late in the afternoon of Oct. 25, at a position of latitude of 31 degrees North 35 degrees West, (southwest of the Madeira Islands) a lookout alerted the ship's officers to the presence of a mysterious ship off the port bow that was on the same course as the *Shenandoah*. Fearing that it may be a Federal ship, Waddell reduced the speed of the *Shenandoah* in order to keep from overtaking the other ship and after dark altered course. The other ship later proved to be the *USS Saranac*.

On Nov. 6, 1865, the *Shenandoah* entered Liverpool harbor. There Waddell surrendered the ship and her crew to an officer of *HMS Donegal*. Thus ends the saga of the *CSS Shenandoah*.

Between Oct. 17, 1864 and her surrender 55 weeks later, the vessel had captured 38 American whaling ships. Three were placed under bond and released with prisoners aboard, the rest put to the torch.

Area schools send 26,609 messages to troops

Since 1971, the Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum has been tops in Alaska for collecting "Fan Mail for the Troops."

AVMM Secretary Forest Brooks and his wife Cathy have tallied the results—an amazing 26,609 cards from 26 schools, forwarded to troops stationed around the world. The cards collected from various areas are sent to the Friends of Our Troops headquarters in Fayetteville, NC and go from there to their final destinations.

Recipients are in units, hospitals, ships, garrisons and commands across the U.S. and various overseas installations where American troops are stationed.

"We ask the students to be creative, write thank you messages, words of welcome, drawings, something about themselves, for example, to provide encouragement and boost morale of the troops," Forest Brooks said.

"They do make a difference," he said.

Many of the troops have replied to the student writers. "A few have actually visited the classrooms when they returned from overseas."

A touching first-hand exchange occurred at Chugiak High School when the mother of a fallen warrior wrote to the student body, expressing appreciation.

When her son's personal effects were returned from Iraq, included was a card written by a Chugiak student. His mother wrote to say how greatly she felt the letters provided support to the soldiers far from home.

The local program began in 2001, coordinated by AVMM board member Anna Fairclough under the auspices of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9785 in Eagle River. A total of 15 schools took part, filling out 4,751 cards. The number of schools in 2007 grew to 26 and produced 4,925 cards.

Cards bearing the approved addressee information on one side are printed by the King Career Center. They are then distributed to the schools where information is provided about the program and students encouraged to write.

Brooks said cards were sent before Christmas for the first four years, but since 2005 they have added a pickup in time for Valentine's Day.

Anyone wishing to participate or wanting more information may call Brooks at 753-2627 and leave a message.

Joint museum project to be explored

(Continued from Page 1)

navigating thousands of square miles of treacherous northern oceans, including valuable fisheries.

At the 1987 transfer which took place at the capital in Sitka, Brevet Major General Jefferson C. Davis, US Army commander in Alaska, accepted title to the land and full authority from Russian Crown Prince Dmitry Maksoutoff following an impressive ceremony.

Troops from both American and Russian armies in full dress uniform were gathered on the parade ground in front of the governor's house. At 1530 hours on a cloudy October 18, the Russian flag was lowered and the Stars and Stripes were raised. The flag itself had been sent by the State Department especially for the occasion and was raised by a 20-man color guard.

As the Russian Eagle was lowered, the first volley of a 21-gun salute was fired by the *USS Ossipee*, which had brought the American troops along with commissioners from Washington, D.C. That first shot was followed by a round from the Russian shore battery and firing continued alternately until each side had loosed 21 volleys.

Since that time, the military forces in Alaska have figured in many historic events, ranging from exploration and mapping of the new territory to driving off the first foreign invaders of American soil since the United States won its independence from Britain

Notable among these are protection of people taking part in the Gold Rush at the turn of the 20th Century, provision of telephone and telegraph service to the new territory, construction of the AlCan Highway, serving as a route for lend-lease flights of aircraft being ferried to Russia from plants in the U.S., establishment of an early-warning radar line to guard the continent from attack and the location and operation of cold weather testing facilities, and now, defense against threats from space.

Museum offers reward

Expressing outrage over vandalism to the Veterans Memorial on the Park Strip in Anchorage, directors of Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum took prompt action at its March meeting.

A \$1,000 reward has been posted for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the March 19 vandalism to the Veterans Memorial at Anchorage Park Strip. Directors of Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum Monday unanimously approved the reward and urge vigorous investigation and prosecution of the crime.

The Museum voted to pay \$500 but when word got out, an individual called to match that amount, raising the total to \$1,000.

Anchorage police said the act apparently was part of a demonstration on the fifth anniversary of the liberation of Iraq from control by Saddam Hussein.

"Pouring paint over the statue of an American serviceman makes a mockery of the very protest these unthinking individuals were trying to make," said Suellyn Novak, AVMM president.

"The freedoms we enjoy were won by veterans of past wars and defended by those who currently serve. To desecrate the memorial in this way is sickening. We want to see the perpetrators brought to justice.

"We treasure and honor the men and women of our armed services who put their very lives on the line for our nation," she added. "To disrespect their sacrifices over political dissent is just plain pitiful."

Anyone with information is asked to call the Anchorage Police Department at 786-8900. To remain anonymous, callers may dial CRIMESTOPPERS at 561-7867.

\$1,000 REWARD

for information leading to the
arrest and conviction of the
person or persons responsible
for the

**MARCH 19 VANDALISM
to the**

**Anchorage Park Strip
Veterans Memorial**

Anyone with information is asked to contact Anchorage Police Department at 786-8900 or 561-7867

Information about the AVMM reward is available from Suellyn Novak at 696-4904.

WAVES to form first Alaska vets chapter

A World War II Navy WAVE who is a relative newcomer to Alaska found there is no Alaska chapter of the WAVES National Unit.

So Pat Rudd is starting one and needs nine other women to join her in the organizational effort.

Membership is open to women veterans of the Navy, Coast Guard, Marines and Seabees. Active duty women also are eligible. And veterans from other services may join as honorary members, although cannot hold office.

"We do a lot of community service," Rudd said, "such as visiting women in the hospitals, doing needlework, lending moral aid and assistance to all service women and veterans."

Women veterans living in VA facilities are a primary concern.

WAVES National has more than 3,500 members and more than 95 units in the Lower 48.

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 _____



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

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

We are working hard
to
help people remem-
ber the
contributions and
sacrifices
by those who served
our country

