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President

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PRESS RELEASE

March 25, 2008

For Immediate Release

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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 will urge vigorous investigation and prosecution.

Anchorage police said the act apparently was part of a demonstration on the anniversary of the liberation of Iraq from control by dictator 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 Wright-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 those responsible brought to justice,” Wright-Novak said.

“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. A caller may remain anonymous by calling CRIMESTOPPERS at 561-7867.

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

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