

PRESS RELEASE
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2015 Governor’s Veterans Advocacy Award goes to World War II veteran

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A World War II veteran and former Alaska Army National Guard member has been named the 2015 Governor’s Veterans Advocacy Award winner.

Dave Trantham, of Bethel, Alaska, received the award during the Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at the Alaska National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Brig. Gen. Laurie Hummel, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, and Verdie Bowen, director of the State Office of Veterans Affairs, presented the award to Trantham.

“Dave Trantham has made community service on behalf of Alaska’s veterans a central part of his life,” Bowen said. “Dave spearheaded the efforts to develop a veterans cemetery in Bethel that was built with no state or federal funds. In addition, it was Dave’s vision and volunteer spirit that inspired people all across the Yukon-Kuskokwim region to assist in creating the Alaska Territorial Guard Memorial Park as a tribute to the more than 1,000 Alaska Territorial Guard members who protected that region during World War II.”

Trantham, a former school teacher, is a WWII veteran. He served in the Army, Air Force and the Alaska Army National Guard.

“Anyone who visits Bethel should stop at the Memorial Park; you can see the work of Dave Trantham and the volunteers,” Bowen said. “They have developed a park that will be there for generations as a place for people to reflect and enjoy. Dave’s legacy of service and his historic undertaking of the memorial distinguishes him as a model for this award.”

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From left: Brig. Gen. Laurie Hummel, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs; Dave Trantham, 2015 Governor’s Veterans Advocacy Award winner; and Verdie Bowen, director of the State Office of Veterans Affairs, reflect on Trantham’s award during the Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at the Alaska National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Marisa Lindsay)



1. **Flickr link** includes an event album from the Veterans Day ceremony with the complete selection of full-resolution, free downloadable images. (Flickr is not generally accessible from .mil computers.)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/alaskanationalguard/albums/72157660353927449>

2. **DVIDS link** includes story and full-resolution photo. (Primarily for media, DVIDS is accessible from .mil computers.)

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/181839/2015-governors-veterans-advocacy-award-goes-world-war-ii-veteran#.VkUr-03luUk>