



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2016

Release: 16-034

Vietnam veteran to be honored with Alaska Distinguished Service Medal

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A Vietnam veteran, who helped bring a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to Alaska and served other veterans for more than a decade, will receive the Alaska Distinguished Service Medal during a ceremony June 4 in Fairbanks.

Brig. Gen. (AK) Laurie Hummel, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, will present the Alaska Distinguished Service Medal to Joseph N. Fields, III during a ceremony that is open to the public, held at the Alaska National Guard armory in Fairbanks.

Fields distinguished himself through exceptional meritorious service as a member of the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council. He was first appointed to the council in 2003 and honorably served until November 2015. Fields served several years as the vice chairman of the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council, and in 2010, he was selected by his fellow council members as the chairman, a position he was re-elected to each year until his most recent term expired.

In 2006, Fields' service to veterans earned him the Governor's Veterans Advocacy award. A major part of this selection was his significant contribution in bringing to Alaska "The Moving Wall," a half-size replica of the Washington, D.C., Vietnam Veterans Memorial. He guided nearly 1,500 volunteers to assist in coordinating this effort.

"Joe is most deserving of this recognition," said Verdie Bowen, Sr., director of the State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs. "His leadership on the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council was instrumental in shaping many of the state benefits our veterans enjoy, and his service to his community and state will never be forgotten."

###

Who: Vietnam veteran Joseph N. Fields, III
What: Alaska Distinguished Service Medal presentation
Where: 202 Wien Avenue (Alaska National Guard armory), Fairbanks
When: Saturday, June 4 at 2 p.m.

For more information, contact the Office of Veterans Affairs at (907)334-0874 or (888)248-3682.