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A Message from Federal Co-Chair

George Cannelos

Dear Friends of the Denali Commission,

For some, Independence Day means a three day weekend, a parade and fireworks, and barbecues with apple pie for dessert. Independence Day has become a weekend for families and friends to get together and enjoy each other; for many the 4th of July is a holiday filled with wonderful summertime activities and memories.



For those men and women who serve in the military and those veterans who have served, Independence Day takes on a whole new meaning. It is this service that I want to take a brief moment to recognize this month and ask our entire readership to do the same this Independence Day. As a retired Brigadier General, and my prior service in the U.S. Navy, Naval Reserve and the Alaska Air National Guard, remembering my comrades in service is always on the forefront for me on Independence Day.

We all know the history of this great country's Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. I fear what most do not fully comprehend is the sacrifice that our men and women in uniform have made to hold on to that independence so that every American can enjoy the freedom's we sometimes take for granted.

Each of us has a story of a family member or friend who has served in the military.

My friend Gregory Slats in Chevak is a typical example of a young man who served in the US

July 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 3, 2009 – Denali Commission offices closed in observance of *Independence Day*.

July 15, 2009 - The deadline for comments on the [Denali Commission Draft Strategic Plan](#). See our [home page](#) for details.

August 1, 2009 – The [Denali Commission Transportation Program FY2010 Project Nomination Process](#) opens. See the Denali Commission's [website](#) for more details on the nomination process. Deadline for submissions is November 1, 2009.

August 1, 2009 – The [Renewable Energy Alaska Project \(REAP\)](#) will hold their *5th Annual Renewable Energy Fair* in Anchorage, Alaska on the Memorial block at Delaney Park.

August 5-7, 2009 – The [Alaska Power Association Annual Meeting](#) will be held in Kenai, Alaska.

August 10, 2009 – The [Denali Commission EECBG Consolidated Application Incentive Project](#) deadline. See the Denali Commission's [home page](#) for information on the Department of Energy's Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) and the [Denali Commission's matching funds](#) for this grant.

August 18, 2009 – The [Denali Commission Economic Development Advisory Committee](#) will meet. Watch our

Marine Corps and who now contributes to the wellbeing of his community. Greg and Brenda opened a store in Chevak with courage and grit and with the help of their four kids. His Marine Corps sword is displayed proudly on the wall of his office.

We are taking a break this month from our usual eNewsletter. From the WWII Veterans of the Alaska Territorial Guard through today's young men and women serving overseas, I hope you take the time to recognize them in your own personal way.

[Happy Independence Day all. \(Video link.\)](#)

Best Wishes,



George J. Cannelos,
Federal Co-Chair

website for details and an agenda. For more information on this meeting, contact [Ms. Adison Smith](#).

August 19, 2009 – The *Denali Commission's Planning Workgroup* will meet at Denali Commission offices. Watch the [Planning Workgroup page](#) on our [website](#) for meeting details.

August 27, 2009 – The *Denali Commission Training Advisory Committee* will meet. Watch our [website](#) for details and an agenda. For more information contact [Ms. Adison Smith](#).

August 29 – September 1, 2009 – The *National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)* will meet at Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers in Chicago, IL.

Announcements:

- Learn more about the [Denali Commission Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant \(EECBG\)](#) Consolidated Application Incentive Project.
- See details on the [Denali Commission's Transportation FY10 Project Nomination Process](#).
- Public Comment is being received for the [Denali Commission's Draft Strategic Plan](#).
- Did you know the [Alaska Clearinghouse](#) has a new website?
- The [2009 Distressed-Non-Distressed Community List](#) is posted on our [website](#).

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Denali Commission

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