

# Gov. Steve Cowper proclaims 1988 'Year of the Veteran'

by Jack R. Shields  
*for the Tundra Times*

I am pleased to inform you that Gov. Steve Cowper has signed a proclamation declaring 1988 "The Year of the Veteran" as a lasting tribute to Alaska's 68,000 veterans.

This proclamation was read at the Veterans Day ceremony at the Alaska Veterans Memorial, Mile 147, Parks Highway, and was a part of the ceremony conducted at the Anchorage Veterans Memorial. This tribute was certainly in keeping with the Veterans Day theme declared by General Turnage, the VA administrator: "Veterans, You Are America." It is also fitting that this proclamation was announced at the Veterans Day ceremony.

Declaring 1988 to be the "The Year of the Veteran" gives us a context for increased veteran activities and events. Veterans' service organizations, the

Legion, VFW, DAV, AMVETS and all other veterans groups, will have a theme within which special events can be planned and conducted.

Increased veteran participation in civic events would be appropriate, as would the sponsoring of essay contests in the schools with veteran related themes.

To be a veteran is to stand tall and be proud that you have served your country with honor, pride and a belief in the principles of freedom. Let's share a mutual pride with yesterday's veterans, today's veterans and tomorrow's veterans.

Recently I asked "Dutch" (Captain) Overly of the Alaska Air Guard, "What's the good word?" His immediate response was, "Alaska Veterans!"

I would greatly appreciate it if you would let me know of any special event or program that you have planned in your area.