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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WALKING THROUGH WWII HISTORY Collections Curator Steve Henrikson Leads Tour of Alaska's WWII History

JUNEAU – This summer marks the 70th anniversary of two seminal events in both World War II and Alaska state history: the Aleutian Island Campaign and the construction of the Alaska-Canada (ALCAN) Military Highway.

Take a look at these and other wartime events that brought permanent change to Alaska as Alaska State Museum Curator of Collections Steve Henrikson leads a walk-through of the exhibit “When ‘Over There’ Was Over Here: World War II in Alaska,” First Friday, July 6 from 6 pm to 7 pm.

Through historical images and artifacts—the Alaska State Museum has been collecting war-related materials since 1944—as well as lively discussion, Henrikson’s tour will examine various aspects of the history of World War II in Alaska. For better or worse, the war ended the territory’s isolation from the rest of the U.S. and sparked the influx of money, personnel and construction that would lay the foundations of present-day Alaska.

“Events in Alaska are sometimes called ‘the forgotten war,’ relegated to the footnotes of history,” said Henrikson. “But wartime activity here represented significant shifts in the progress of the war, and in the development of our state.”

Henrikson’s walk-through coincides with current ASM exhibit “Kiska: A World War II Battlefield Landscape,” developed in collaboration with the National Park Service-Alaska Regional Office (Janet Clemens) and Charles Sturt University, Albury, Australia (Dirk HR Spennemann).

Highlights of the two exhibits include:

- Spennemann’s Kiska Island battlefield photography
- Japanese flag carried in the final charge on American troops during the liberation of Attu
- Battle ensign flown by the USS Alaska
- 37 mm gun captured from the Japanese on Attu
- Allied and Axis propaganda posters and leaflets
- Uniforms, weapons and equipment from the Japanese Imperial Navy, US Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Air Force used during WWII in Alaska

Summer hours at the museum are 8:30 to 5:30 daily. Summer admission is \$7 with a \$1 discount for age 65 and older. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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www.museums.state.ak.us

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