



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**OCTOBER 13, 2009**  
**KENAI**

### **Kenai Office Open House**

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Senator Begich's Kenai  
Office

[805 Frontage Rd](#)  
[Suite 101](#)  
[Kenai](#)

**OCTOBER 15, 2009**

## E-NEWSLETTER

### October 13, 2009

#### **Health Care Discussions in Alaska and the Senate**

With the arrival of fall, work continues on health care reform legislation in Congress. We continue to have good debate and are getting closer every day to a final bill. I was pleased to see hundreds of Alaskans in Anchorage and Fairbanks at the end of last month for my two most recent health care [town hall meetings](#). You have excellent ideas as I work on this issue in Washington, D.C. In an effort to highlight the importance of passing health care reform, I am joining the freshmen Democratic senators in delivering [weekly floor speeches](#) highlighting some of the [changes we need](#) to ensure that all Americans have health care. I am also looking forward to coming back to Alaska later this month for the annual gathering of the

**U.S. CAPITOL**

Alaska Federation of Natives. I will be speaking to the AFN on Saturday, Oct. 24 and my office is involved in a variety of activities that week.

**Weekly Senate Floor Speech on Health Care Reform**

9:30 a.m. (EDT)

\*Time is approximate and subject to change

**OCTOBER 20, 2009  
WASHINGTON D.C.**

**The Future of the World's Oceans (Panel)**

4:00 - 5:30 p.m. (EDT)

Pew Trust Offices

[901 E St. NW](#)  
[Washington D.C.](#)



Sincerely,

Senator Mark Begich

**Sgt. Waszak Awarded Purple Heart**

**OCTOBER 24, 2009  
ANCHORAGE**

**Speech to the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention**

1:00 p.m.

Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center



*Sen. Begich pins the Purple Heart on Sgt. 1st Class Michael T. Waszak during a ceremony this morning at Fort Richardson. Sgt. Waszak received the award for injuries he received in combat in Iraq in August 2004.*

**Alaska Territorial Guard Retirement Benefits in Defense Authorization Act**



*Sen. Begich speaking on the Senate Floor. His speech followed a statement from the Obama administration opposing the reinstatement of ATG benefits.*

Successfully making the case that members of Alaska Territorial Guard (ATG) who defended Alaska and the United States during World War II earned and deserve retirement pay, Sen. Begich successfully included language supporting the retirement benefits as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010. Working with Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Sen. Begich convinced senators to ignore opposition from the Defense Department last month opposing the benefits. "I am pleased and proud that my colleagues in the Senate recognize the service of the ATG members who defended this country and deserve the same recognition and compensation as those on active duty," Sen. Begich said. "I am hopeful as this moves to a final vote and then onto the president, we can have this issue fixed and restore the benefits to these brave Alaskans." Sen. Begich spoke on the Senate floor about the role of the ATG and retirement benefits due them.

### **Sen. Begich Interviewed for 'State of the Union'**



*Sen. Begich was interviewed by CNN's John King on October 12, in Anchorage. King's show "State of the Union" will feature Alaska as part of a nationwide tour. They talked in Elderberry Park on a beautiful day overlooked by Mt. Susitna. The profile of Alaska will air Sunday on "State of the Union".*

### **Sen. Begich Discusses Anchorage Priorities with Mayor Sullivan**

Sen. Begich and Anchorage Mayor Dan Sullivan last week had their first meeting since Sullivan took office on July 1. The two discussed a variety of issues impacting the city, including effective use of economic recovery dollars, road and transportation issues, and the expansion of the Port of Anchorage. Begich said he is looking forward to seeing the federal funding priorities from Sullivan and his team. "Mayor Sullivan and I had an excellent discussion about the future of Anchorage and how to keep the economy strong and moving. I look forward to working with the new administration as Anchorage develops its list of projects eligible for federal funding and other ways the city and federal government can partner to keep Alaska's largest city growing."

### **Visit to Palmer Middle School**



*On Columbus Day, Sen. Begich visited Palmer Jr/Middle School. He offered "Words of Wisdom" to the school and spoke to a leadership class. He shared his impressions of what it takes to be a positive leader and encouraged all students to get involved in their communities, local projects and "situations in which you desire a change."*

### **Kenai Office Opens**

Rounding out his Alaska offices, Sen. Begich is pleased to announce the opening of his [office on the Kenai](#). The office opens officially Tuesday with an Open House from 4-6 p.m. Begich has hired long-time Alaskan Kim Howard to run the office at 805 Frontage Road, #101, in Kenai. Howard moved to the Kenai Peninsula in 1977 and has extensive experience in local government. She worked for the

City of Kenai as assistant to the city manager for 25 years, providing support to various city administrators on a wide range of management-related issues.

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