

Valdez, Alaska

Military Appreciation Weekend

Saturday, May 31, 2014

All Saturday activities take place at John Kelsey Plaza.

10:00 Bite Back 5K Run/Walk Registration

10:45 Bite Back Kids' (12 & Under) 1 Mile Run/Walk

11:00 Bite Back 5K Run/Walk



Benefit Race for Compassion International's Malaria Fund. Entry fee: \$10 Individual/\$20 Family, \$5 Kid's Race. Sponsored by Compassion International and Valdez Parks & Recreation. This festive event is designed to be fun for everyone! Runners and walker of all ages are welcome to participate. Join the Movement. Malaria bites! Bite Back! Alaskans are no strangers to mosquitoes! Thankfully, we don't have to worry about the deadly disease of malaria, which kills 2,000 children in warmer climates around the world every day. All proceeds from this race support Compassion's Malaria Relief Fund which provides lifesaving bed nets, education and medicines for children around the world. <http://www.biteback.net>

13:30 Military Appreciation Ceremony

~Posting of Colors by US Coast Guard Valdez

~Presentation of Honor Awards to Valdez Recipients

~Major General Thomas H. Katkus, Adjutant General



Major General Katkus is a lifelong Alaskan who enlisted in the Alaska Army National Guard on 31 October 1977. After attaining the rank of Sergeant, he entered Alaska's Officer Candidate School and received his commission on 5 December 1980 as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry. After receiving his commission, Major General Katkus served as a Light Reconnaissance Team Leader, Scout Platoon Leader, Support Platoon Leader, Battalion Motor Officer, Headquarters Company Commander, Assistant S-4, Infantry Company Commander, Battalion Plans and Operations Officer, Battalion Commander, Counterdrug Coordinator, Chief of Staff of the Army National Guard, and Assistant Adjutant General – Space and Missile Defense, Commander, Alaska Army National Guard / Assistant Adjutant General – Army. In August 2009, Major General Katkus assumed the duties of the Adjutant General and Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

14:00 Free Community Fish Fry

Sponsored by Peter Pan Seafoods, and the City of Valdez, this picnic will feature Grilled Halibut, Salads, Hot Dogs for kids, and all the fixings.

14:00-16:00 Recreational Activities

Hosted by the Alaska Army National Guard. Come out and have fun and show respect for the Men and Women in Uniform. These activities will include "Bouncy Boxing," "Jousting," "Rock Wall," and an "Obstacle Course."

