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## *Native housing needs are critical*

To the editor:

President Bush's budget for Alaska Native and Indian housing programs is zero. There was no funding recommendation for Alaska Native and American Indian housing programs from our president.

This has been the situation throughout the last decade under Republican presidents.

For us here in Alaska there is a need for 6,400 new homes for our Alaska Native communities. With a zero budget we will never meet our housing needs for our Alaska Native communities.

If we do not influence our Alaska Congressional Delegation we may continue to face a zero budget for our housing needs, and your community may never receive funding for new homes.

Your influence is needed. Your voice is needed to ask our Congress in Washington, D.C., for an authorizing bill for Alaska Native and American Indian housing programs. The purpose is to make sure that there is funding every year by Congress to properly meet our housing needs for our communities.

If we are to meet our housing needs here in Alaska, Congress needs to know about them. If you have never written, ask your local housing authority or your elected tribal officials to help you write your letter to Congress.

We really need to let Congress know about our needs. Since we have a zero budget, it is an uphill battle.

Sincerely,  
Terrance H. Booth Sr.  
Metlakatla

## *Thanks for help in my time of grief*

To the editor:

Hi. I am writing to thank all the people who came for my sister's funeral.

She passed away Jan. 14. It was so hard for me to write that. But I know you people care — from Bethel, Kalskag, Grayling, Shageluk, Russian Mission and Anchorage, all the relatives and cousins. I can't think of all the names and places.

I want to thank all you people. It really hurt. Just to think, all my little sisters are gone in heaven. Lord, let us be strong for Mom. There are seven brothers left, Stan, Richard, Mike, LeRoy, Ernie, Terry and Ben. I always pray for Mom so she'll be strong.

Sometimes people drink or try to drink their problems away. It's not the way. When they sober up, the problem

is still yet there.

I want to thank people for the potlatch. Sometimes you go to a potlatch, you see girls, and you see your loved one who has passed on. You want to call them or just call their name, but when they turn, it's not them. But in your heart you feel the pain.

You dream of the good old days, but it was a good dream.

I want to thank Doyon Ltd. for the donations they gave. I want to thank the people who called and sent cards to us, and the poor who can't make it. Thank you for calling.

I want to thank all you caring people. I'll pray for you, too.

Thanks from,  
Mike Peters  
Holy Cross