

Stevens honors Metlakatla for 100 years of history

Sen. Ted Stevens congratulated the citizens of Metlakatla on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Southeastern community in a statement on the Senate floor earlier this month.

The senator traced Metlakatla's history from Aug. 7, 1887, when a group of Tsimshian families seeking religious freedom and a land base arrived on the Annette Island.

"The Metlakatla community is a great source of pride for me and for all Alaskans," Stevens said. "In this Bicentennial Year of the United States Constitution, recognition of their diverse cultural heritage is especially appropriate."

"Today, the Metlakatla communi-

ty consists of members of many different Alaska Native groups, including the Tsimshian, Haida, Tlingit, Athabaskan, Aleut, Yupik and Inupiat Natives," Stevens added.

"This rich cultural mix is invaluable to Alaska's social and educational heritage. Metlakatla is known and respected throughout Alaska for its progressive attitude. Yet it is a community that does not ignore its traditional heritage — youth are still taught the languages, carvings, dance and craftsmanship of their elders."

Stevens also included a letter from President Reagan to be printed with his statement in the Congressional Record. The President's letter congratulated the citizens of Metlakatla.