

CINA honors Stevens for jobs programs help

The Cook Inlet Native Association last week presented U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens with a soapstone carving to thank Stevens for his efforts to help job training programs for Alaska.

Stevens was given a carving, nearly eight inches tall, of a graceful cormorant with its neck outstretched and head looking upwards. The carving was mounted on a walnut block.

As more than 50 CINA workers and associates looked on, CINA President John Rude told Stevens he was being honored for his "continued sensitivity to the special needs of the Native people of Alaska and your effective leadership securing appropriate federal legislation in meeting those needs."

Rude told the state's senior senator that his efforts to minimize the negative impact of federal program cutbacks over the past two years were appreciated.

He complimented Stevens for his efforts to assure a smoother transition of the Bureau of Indian Affairs schools in Alaska to state control by encouraging the extension of timeframe for the transfer.

But the reason Stevens was being honored was for his work in employment training and the Comprehensive Employment Training Act programs.

Rude told Stevens "your demonstrated concern in seeking such opportunities has enabled organizations like CINA to actively engage in employment training programs working both with the public and the private sector to provide on-the-job training and obtain employment in the community.

Rude also cited several private Anchorage businesses for their participation. Those businesses included the Fireweed, Chevron, Alaska USA Credit Union, Carr's Grocery, Ward's Marina, SOHIO petroleum

company, the Hofbrau Restaurant, and Printmore, Inc.

Stevens thanked Rude and commented that he had not expected to receive an award ceremony but had expected to be a speaker at the award for

another person. "You don't have to thank me for doing my job. I've just been doing my job," said Stevens.

Max Dolchok, executive director of CINA, and Roy Huhndorf, president of the

Cook Inlet Region, Inc., attended the ceremony.

Huhndorf told the group that Stevens' office had never failed to answer the calls of CIRI and always worked closely with CIRI on matters of concern to the corporation.



CINA President John Rude presents Senator Ted Stevens with a soapstone carving.