

## ***Last week special for Alaska Natives and Indians, according to BIA***

Last week was "American Indian and Alaska Native Week," according to a Bureau of Indian Affairs news release received by the *Tundra Times* last Friday afternoon.

BIA Alaska Area Director Jake Lestenkof said Senate Joint Resolution 390 was signed into law by Pres. Ronald Reagan on Oct. 14. That resolution recognizes the unique and essential contributions made by American Indians and Alaska Natives to the U.S., Lestenkof said.

According to the BIA official, it also is intended as a reminder of the help American Indians provided the country's founders and to encourage

Americans to consider the current relationship between Native Americans and the nation.

Lestenkof said he "joined with the President in calling on state governments, interested groups and organizations and the people of Alaska to observe American Indian and Alaska Native Week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

"Thanksgiving Week is a fitting time for all of us to reflect on the role of Native Americans in the founding of our country, and to honor their ongoing contribution to the cultural, political and economic fabric of our society," Lestenkof said.