

SPENARD COMMUNITY COUNCIL-SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON REPORT

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

Alaska Federation of Natives

Last month I had the privilege of attending the Elders and Youth segment of the annual Alaska Federation of Natives conference. The annual event brings together Alaska Native leaders, organizations, cultural performers, and advocates across Alaska. This year's conference theme was "***Our Ways of Life***" which is so fitting as indigenous voices from all corners of Alaska come together to discuss important issues affecting their communities.

Korean Consulate

Met with Consul and Head of the Consulate, Park Joongsuk of the Republic of Korea on October 24th. I look forward to continuing our dialogue and expanding our support for one another through various initiatives. He shared his thanks for SB131 which I introduced during the last session to require education in the history and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in grades K-12.

Commemorative Event to Honor the African American Soldiers

In 2017, SB46 established October 25th of each year as ***African American Soldiers' Contribution to Building the Alaska Highway Day***. On this day, African American Troops of the 93rd and 95th regiments constructing the Alaska-Canadian (ALCAN) highway north from Dawson Creek, met the white troops constructing the ALCAN Highway heading south. The Troops connected the two segments on October 25, 1943, at Contact Creek near Mile Post 490 in the Yukon Territory. I was honored to attend a celebration hosted by American Legion Post 34.

Filipino American History Month

On July 20, 2023, HB23 was signed into law which established October as Filipino American History Month. The celebration coincided with a multimedia exhibit showcasing the stories and histories of Alaska's Filipino community which debuted on Saturday, October 28th. "Mana: The History We Inherit" is a collection of stories from Filipino elders living in Alaska. It includes portraits, photo archives and stories pulled from oral accounts gathered over the last year. I was also honored to attend this celebration.

Public Assistance

The division of public assistance provides basic living expenses to Alaskans in need. Some of the Programs include Adult Public Assistance, Childcare, Chronic and Acute

Medical Assistance, Family Nutrition, SNAP Benefits, General Relief Assistance, Heating Assistance, Medicaid, Senior Benefits and Temporary Assistance. The office is open Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We are aware of the many unacceptable issues involving recertification and receiving SNAP benefits. If you need assistance, please contact Magen James at Food Bank of Alaska at 907 222-3103. They have a contract with the State of Alaska to help.

Employment Opportunity

Alaska State Senate floor staff for 2nd session of the 33rd Alaska Legislature is looking for Pages.

- Note: Housing accommodations are not provided, and each employee must secure his/her own accommodations in Juneau. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and hold an Alaska Driver License.
- Full time, seasonal, salaried position
- Starting pay range is 13A/\$22.98 per hour.
- Non-partisan services and support to legislative members
- Send Resume and Alaska DMV driving record to Senate Sergeant at Arms: Matt Simpson | Matt.Simpson@akleg.gov

Senate District G Office

During the interim, my staff and I are in the Anchorage Office located at 1500 W. Benson Boulevard, Suite 328. We are always available to assist you with your concerns so feel free to stop by, email me or call the office at (907) 269-0174. Our office will be closed on the upcoming holidays: Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Years Day.

Always representing your interests!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sen. Gray-Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.