The mission of the Ted Stevens Foundation is to recognize and honor Senator Ted Stevens' career in public service and to apply his legacy though outreach and education.

Update from the Executive Director:

The Foundation has had a busy and productive quarter, with a number of continuing programs and new projects in development. Our team of archivists continue processing and curating the Senator's extensive collection of papers and media, we've launched our oral history and podcast project, and are preparing for a major fundraising initiative.

We are very excited to announce that a new lead donor has joined the Legacy Fund. Donald “Boysie” Bollinger has pledged a $100,000 challenge grant towards the Senator Stevens capitol portrait as part of the Senate Leadership Portrait Collection in Washington, D.C. which honors its past majority and minority leaders and presidents pro tempore. Mr. Bollinger was the long time President and CEO of Bollinger Shipyards and worked with the
The holiday season was always a cherished time in Senator Stevens' office, and a time to reflect upon family and friendships. That spirit continues at the Ted Stevens Foundation as we thank all those who have volunteered their time, generously donated, and the many friends and former staffers who still keep in touch. All of you are a critical part of the mission to continue the Senator's legacy of ensuring a brighter future for generations of Alaskans.

Happy Holidays,
Karina Waller
In November, Karina Waller, Lily Stevens, and Terranova Tasker traveled to Washington, D.C. to collect oral histories and podcast interviews from former staffers as part of a new project titled “Raising Alaska.” Through these interviews we will discuss lessons in governance, leadership, collaboration, and how each of us is continuing the legacy of the Senator today. Pictured above are former staffers Lisa Sutherland and Steve Silver.

While in D.C. the Foundation also celebrated the Senator’s birthday early with friends, Senate colleagues, and family at one of Ted’s favorite spots, the 116 Club. Senator Stevens would have been 94 years old this year.

The Ted Stevens Foundation was honored to celebrate the Senator’s birthday with friends and family at the 6th Annual Howard Rock & Ted Stevens Smokehouse Gala on Saturday November 18, 2017. L-r, Leila Kimbrell, Fran Durner, Steve and Lindsey Wackowski, Angie Marquez, Karina Waller, Margy Johnson, Judy Bittner, Julie Fate Sullivan and Les Krusen. First Alaskans / Stevens Foundation photo

Announcing The 50th Anniversary Project

In honor of the upcoming 50th Anniversary of Senator Stevens’ swearing-in on December 24th, 1968 the Foundation is asking former staff, friends, and colleagues to share a favorite story, photo, or memory or ‘Ted-ism.’

“We’re off like a herd of turtles.”
“There is no lesson in the second kick of a mule.”
“You need to look under beds
These stories will offer a glimpse into the Senator’s lessons in governance, leadership, and mentorship. These writings will be compiled and bound into a book to be published by the Foundation.

email your stories to:

robin@tedstevensfoundation.org

From the Desk of the Archivist

Photo Archivist and Curator Fran Durner shared photographs with attendees at the recent AFN Convention in Anchorage. Fran’s efforts led to the identification of several people to add to the Foundation’s photo collection. Senator Stevens made a point of visiting villages and towns all over rural Alaska to see and consult with constituents during his career.

One individual had quite a story to tell:

In April of 1969, only four months after arriving in the U. S. Senate, Senator Stevens accompanied Senators Ted Kennedy and Walter Mondale on a tour of rural Alaska villages to gather information on Indian education. One of the photos in the Foundation’s collection shows the senators walking with an unidentified man in an unidentified village. Someone at AFN recognized the man and said his daughter worked in Anchorage. Fran was able to find and contact daughter Louise Britton, who identified her father, Norman Kelly, as the Postmaster of Pilot Station.

Remember this was in 1969, at the height of the Cold War and before reliable communications systems. Britton said the villagers didn’t know the delegation and entourage were coming, so when three big planes landed on the Yukon in front of the village, they thought they were being invaded by the Russians.
Senator Ted Kennedy, left, walks with Pilot Station postmaster Norman Kelly, as Senators Ted Stevens and Walter Mondale, far right, accompany them to the village post office. Stevens Foundation photo.

Not pictured: Terranova Tasker