



# Celebrating Alaska's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Statehood

In the Kenai Peninsula Borough



John J. Williams  
Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor



# What are we celebrating?

- May 28, 1958 – The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Alaska Statehood Bill by a vote of 208 to 166.
- July 7, 1958 – President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Alaska Statehood Bill into law.
- January 3, 1959 – President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the proclamation admitting Alaska to the U.S. a “moment after the stroke of noon.”



# The Alaska Statehood Celebration Commission (ASCC)

- Governor Palin appointed a commission of eight members with a mission ...

‘to research, plan and prepare to celebrate Alaska’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of admission as the 49<sup>th</sup> state of the United States of America.’”



# How is Alaska Celebrating?

May 28, 2008 and into weekend – Events celebrating the bill's passage will be hosted by Festival Fairbanks.

July 4th, 2008 weekend – Capital City Celebration will host events commemorating signing of the bill.

January 3, 2009 – Tech50 (Anchorage) will begin a week long celebration of the proclamation admitting Alaska to the U.S.



# Statewide Participation Event

Time Capsule to be opened at  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Statehood



# Statewide Participation Event

Sponsored by  
Tech50

## Alaska Statehood Quilt Invitational



Quilters all over Alaska are invited to create a 24" x 30" BLOCK that represents the 50th Anniversary of Alaska Statehood. These can represent any image, person or event that reminds the artist of statehood.

All of the BLOCKS will be assembled into 8' x 10' panels to be displayed as part of the Alaska Statehood Celebration on January 3<sup>rd</sup> in Anchorage. These panels will then tour the state throughout 2009.

For information and rules, contact the Alaska Fiber Festival  
[alaskafiberfestival.org](http://alaskafiberfestival.org)

For more information on the Alaska 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Statehood Celebrations contact Darl Schaaff at [darl@artservicesnorth.com](mailto:darl@artservicesnorth.com)

# Statewide Participation Event

## Commemorative Coin



Printing 5,000;

Cities/Boroughs can purchase for approximately \$9;

Can sell as fund raiser.



# Statewide Participation



**50th Anniversary / Statehood plates**

**Standard issue January 2nd, 2008 thru  
December 31st, 2009**

**Vehicle size only – no trucks, cycles**



# Statewide Opportunities

The Alaska Humanities Forum has partnered with the Rasmuson Foundation providing grant opportunities.

See details at: <http://www.akhf.org/>

Major Grant deadline – May 15, 2008

Mini Grants – rolling deadline



# Statewide Marketing and Beyond

The ASCC will market your events on its website – and will provide links to other sites.

[http://www.gov.state.ak.us/state\\_commission/index.php](http://www.gov.state.ak.us/state_commission/index.php)

Alaska Airlines, the Alaska Railroad and other Alaska organizations and businesses are partnering with the Commission to promote this celebratory event.



# The ASCC Encourages Community Involvement

- Each community is encouraged to plan an anniversary celebration that is meaningful to that community.
- Many communities have planned activities which encourage involvement by individuals, organizations and communities across Alaska.



# How will the KPB celebrate?

- Official dates of KPB's celebration –  
Proposed January 3, 2009 to January 3, 2010;
- A grant application will be submitted by May 15, 2008 to produce a history book of the KPB;
- Each community or organization determines what statehood means to them and how to celebrate the event.



# Suggested Community Activities

- Barbeques
- Bonfires
- Concerts
- Fireworks Displays
- Parades
- Education – History
- Flag Displays
- KPB Passport
- Medallions/Coins
- Special Speakers
- Contests – posters, 5 or 10K runs, artwork
- Statehood Anniversary Event Themes
- U.S. Armed Forces Involvement





How Would You Like to Celebrate?





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Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor