

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

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Sponsor Statement | HR 11

House Resolution 11 expresses the Alaska House of Representatives' support to rename Saginaw Bay as Skanáx Bay. The bay is situated on the northern coast of Kuiu Island in the Alexander Archipelago and is located across the Keku Strait from the community of Kake.

The bay was named after the USS *Saginaw*, a United States Navy ship that shelled Kake in 1869, destroying three civilian villages and three smaller campsites. The destruction from the shelling led to an unknown number of deaths by starvation and exposure during the following winter.

The bay's current name is an affront to the local Tlingit community and a source of discomfort for many residents of the Kake. The community of Kake has proposed renaming Saginaw Bay to Skanáx Bay to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names; this resolution affirms the name change.