

# Services held for Roger Lang

by Steve Pilkington

for the Tundra Times

Funeral and memorial services were held last week for Roger Lang, 58, accomplished Alaska Native leader who died July 6 at Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital in Sitka.

"When I think of Roger, the phrase

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## • Lang found ways to help

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"one of a kind" leaps into my mind," said Byron Mallott, board member and chief executive officer of Sealaska Corp. Mallott worked with Lang for more than 20 years.

"He was a very capable person," Mallott said. "And that was recognized by every institution which could grab him."

Lang's successful history with Alaska Native organizations was not only a result of his business capabilities, but also because of his personality.

"He would bend over backwards for virtually anyone," said John Shively, chief executive officer of United Bank Alaska. Lang was president of the Alaska Federation of Natives from 1974-75, and during that time Shively served as his vice president. "If somebody needed help, he would try to find a way to help them."

Lang was born in Metlakatla on May 13, 1929. He was raised there and in Sitka, where he graduated from Sheldon Jackson school.

Lang lived in Douglas from 1971-72 while he worked for the state as director of the Rural Development Assistance Program. He also lived there from 1981-85.

In addition to his presidency at AFN, Lang also served as president of the Alaska Native Foundation from 1978-82.

Lang was the owner of Roger Lang and Associates consulting firm.

He spent most of his latter years working with the Sealaska Corp. He

also became a member of the corporation's board of directors.

Including his work with the AFN and ANF, Lang was very involved with Native community organizations, such as the Alaska Native Brotherhood, the Tlingit & Haida Central Council, the National Congress of American Indians, the Institute of Alaska Native Art Inc., the International Commission of Cross Cultural Education and the Alaska Youth Commission. Also, he was chairman of the board for the Alaska State Housing Authority, as well as the AFN Human Resources Development Program.

Lang's favorite sport was basketball. He played for a number of years on the Sitka ANB basketball team.

"He was one of the first inductees into the Lions Club Gold Medal Hall of Fame," Mallott said, "which was quite an accomplishment in the Southeast."

Lang was confined to a hospital bed during the past several years as a result of injuries suffered from a stroke, compounded by injuries sustained in an automobile accident in July 1985.

Lang is survived by his mother Cora Booth of Sitka; former wife Norma Lang of Tumwater, Wash.; son David of Tumwater, Wash.; daughter Karen Coleman of Sitka; grandchildren, Kendra and Jerriek Coleman of Sitka; sisters, Corinne Redde of Metlakatla and Betty Haws of Sitka; brothers, Les Brendibles of Ketchikan, Alex Brendibles of Metlakatla, and Harry "Buddy," Tom and Gary Lang, all of Sitka.