

Schaeffer receives award

John Schaeffer, President of the Northwest Alaska Native Association, was presented with a Cultural Achievement Award by the U.S. Department of the Interior, August 13. Presenting the award was Chris Therral Delaporte, Director of Interior's Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Mr. Delaporte presented a certificate conveying the award to Mr. Schaeffer at a luncheon in Kotzebue. Mr. Schaeffer is one of 21 recipients selected Nationwide to receive this prestigious award. Mr. Delaporte told Mr. Schaeffer that "your creative and innovative leadership has been instrumental in helping the people of Northwest Alaska to recognize the great values of their traditional culture. You have fostered a new

sense of unity among the people in this region, and have helped them to work together to maintain and protect their cultural heritage.

You recognized the importance of establishing the Kotzebue NANA Museum, and through the economic development of jade and reindeer you have skillfully blended improvement of the local economy with traditional life styles and values. Through your leadership, people have realized that an ancient culture can also be a living culture, and that tradition and progress are not necessarily incompatible," Mr. Delaporte concluded.

Interior's Cultural Achievement Award was established in 1978 to recognize outstanding contributions by individuals, organi-

zations, and communities to the protection of the Nation's cultural heritage. The Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, which coordinates Cultural Achievement Awards, is a new Service in Interior, created in 1978. HCRS works with both Governmental and private parties to protect cultural, historic and natural values and to assure adequate recreation opportunities.
