

Charley Named 1988 AFN Citizen of the Year



The 1988 AFN Citizen of the Year, Walter Charley, comes forward at the convention to accept his award amongst cheers and congratulations from well-wishers. Photo by Rob Stapleton/AFN

Walter Charley, an Athabascan elder from Glennallen, received the 1988 AFN Citizen of the Year Award at the closing of the 22nd annual AFN Convention. This prestigious award recognizes an individual who has devoted a large portion of his or her life to serving the Native community. Charley was nominated for the award by the Copper River Native Association and Ahtna Regional Corp. Board of Directors.

Charley is a very caring and respected elder who has the knowledge of the elderly ways and combines it with the modern business world of today. His long record of service to the Native community includes many positions of leadership. He currently serves as an honorary elder on the Copper River

Native Association Board and is a member of the Local Game Advisory Board. He is also active in the RuralCap Village Participation Conferences and the Rural Alaska Resource Association.

Charley's past service includes work as Chitina Village president, commissioner of Wrangell St. Elias Park, president of the Glennallen PTA, president of the Local Senior Citizen Advisory Board, and first vice president of the Aboriginal Senior Citizens of Alaska. During the pipeline years, he served as president of Ahtna Construction. "Tomorrow, as I am traveling down the road," Charley said in accepting the award, "if I should fall down and go beyond here, I'm going to leave you light hearted and thankful."