

# What others say...

## **Della Keats Award**

To the editor:

I want to thank all the people involved in me receiving the Della Keats Helping Hands Award. On the day I got the award I was so excited I couldn't think, so never thanked the many people involved.

I want to share what the award means to me. It means there were people who believed in me through:

1. Time, money and effort put in me — training and education.
2. Support from North Pacific Rim, my family and my people, from CHAP — medical staff, IHS and private medical staff.
3. All those health aides in the State of Alaska reflection of their time, effort and caring.
4. The field doctor who 31 years ago encouraged me to go to Mt. Edgecumbe School. I didn't know his

name.

5. My grandma who cared enough to share with me and helped me decide what I would do — she was our healer, she used her hands to heal my people; Anna Moonin, a great lady.

6. My tribute to Della Keats her love, kindness and smile.

7. Sobriety — I can never say enough on this area, what a difference it makes to be able to feel love.

8. Spirituality — believing in our Lord Jesus Christ, one and another and our wonderful relationship with the land and ocean.

9. My ancestors who have made my life rich with all I have, the wings I have and knowledge, like an eagle I can soar.

Elenore McMullen  
Port Graham

## **Good-by to Alaska**

To the editor:

On this Thanksgiving Day as I travel the Alaska Marine Highway System from Haines to Seattle, I sit here thinking back on the last year I was home in Alaska rushing around Anchorage and other parts of Alaska trying to get ahead of my bills, trying to stay out of trouble, trying to stay away from alcohol, and in trying to do these things I have found my rewards of being able to enjoy the clean air and beauty that our great state of Alaska

and Canada has to offer us humans.

Realizing also that our cultural heritage means a great deal more to us than money. It helps us understand ourselves better and encourages us to realize as for our next journey into the spirit world. As I sit here rambling on I just want to say farewell Alaska and everyone I've dealt with over the years good and bad. I'll be back in about a year.

Sincerely  
Ron Mancil

## **Thank you, President Reagan**

To the editor:

We have confidence that our President of the United States is doing and will do what he feels is in the long-run best interest of the great country he leads, even if there is a clash with possibly outdated congressional directives.

Let's give President Ronald Reagan a nation-wide exuberant ovation at thirty seconds before midnight December 31, 1986, for steadfastly

pursuing the long-term best interest of our nation to the best his ability and for maintaining his sanity and optimism in spite of being shot down and then rhetorically barraged and abused for not doing his job exactly as others want him to do. Congratulations, President Reagan. Thank you, First Lady Nancy.

Leonard E. Moffitt  
Palmer

## **Polley criticized**

To the editor:

Juneau Mayor Ernest Polley's open contempt for the Open Meetings Law comes as no surprise to this former Juneauite. Polley showed similar contempt for local rules of public participation at Assembly meetings.

Once I signed up, in accordance with established procedures, to participate on an agenda item listed for public participation. About 10 other citizens participated on this item, then Polley closed public participation without calling my name, as required by the rules.

I approached the microphone and reminded Polley that I had signed up

to participate, too. Polley said public participation was closed. I tried to insist on my rights, but after he ruled me out of order several times, I realized the impossibility of countering such fascist tactics head-on. Instead, I politely sat down, then filed a lawsuit.

This manifestation of the tendency toward an autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader fits right in with Polley's campaign to allow public officials to conduct public business in private. Such tendencies have no place in a democracy and must be resisted strenuously.

Betty Breck  
Palmer