

Donna Demoski and two others lost in Yukon River plane crash near near Galena

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Three persons were killed January 1 in the crash of a light plane 20 miles west of Galena on the Yukon River.

Dead are: Donna Demoski, 25, of Nulato, and pilots, Gary Carlson and Al Volpi, both of Galena.

According to the Galena Air Service, the three were conducting a search for an overdue snowmobiler when the Cessna 180 in which they were flying crashed into the river.

Born at Eagle Island, 60 miles below Kaltag, Miss Demoski attended Copper Valley School, was graduated from Monroe High School in Fairbanks, and attended the University of Alaska.

She was well known in Interior Alaska, having been one of the

first women forest firefighters, one of the first women in the National Guard in Alaska, and active in politics. She was selected Miss Fairbanks Native Association in 1972 and participated in the World Eskimo and Indian Olympics. After attending truck drivers school, she became a Teamster and worked on the pipeline construction.

With her savings, she was constructing a home in Nulato, the house essentially complete except for the roof.

She is survived by her father, Andrew, and mother, Amelia, five brothers, Stanley, William, Andrew, Jr., Gerald, and Floyd, and four sisters, Martha, Irene, Rita and Catherine.

Funeral services were held January 9 in Nulato.