

Nelson named Ketchikan Native Citizen of the Year

A hearty congratulations is in order for Tlingit and Haida Central Council executive committeeman, Charles Nelson of Ketchikan, for being named 'Ketchikan Native Citizen of the Year' by the Ketchikan Indian Corporation and the local IRA Council.

Nelson was honored at a banquet on March 12. With him to accept the award were his wife Charlene, a teacher at Valley Park; daughter Cheryl Ann, a Head Start teacher; and son Daniel, a student at Ketchikan Community College.

Nelson, a lifetime fisherman, has been active in community, regional and national affairs for many years. Born in Howkan on January 6, 1912, Nelson has lived in Ketchikan since 1948. He is an alumnus of Sheldon Jackson School in Sitka and Chemawa in Oregon. Nelson is a Haida of the Yakana Clan and his Clan Crest is the double-fin Killer Whale. He has devoted many years of his life

to the Alaska Native Brotherhood of which he is past grand vice president.

For eight years, Nelson was an advisor to the late U.S. Ambassador Donald McKernan on fishery matters when McKernan was in charge of U.S. policy and negotiations on foreign fisheries. He served two terms on the Ketchikan City Council in the 1950s and also has served on advisory boards for boat owners for Sheldon Jackson College.

Nelson has been, and remains very active with the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians and is a member of the T-H Housing Development Corporation. As an interim director of the Sealaska Corporation, he was one of the principals in the drive for the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Last year, Nelson was named as one of six observers from Alaska to the White House Conference on the Aging. For his work he received a letter

of commendation from Gov. Jay Hammond.

During the conference on aging, Nelson took time to address the National Congress of American Indians on subsistence hunting and fishing. Nelson has attended several meetings of the National Congress of American Indians as an Alaskan delegate.

There were messages to Nelson congratulating him on his award from State Sen. Bob Ziegler, from U.S. Senator Ted Stevens, from Hammond, from U.S. Sen. Frank Murkowski and from deputy state fish and game commissioner William G. Demmert Jr.

Also receiving an award at the banquet was Elma Guthrie, an executive secretary at the Ketchikan Indian Corporation. She was named 'employee of the year.'

Native leaders from Saxman were recognized, as were Natives from Metlakatla, Kas-aan, Hydaburg, Petersburg, Skagway and California.



Mary Kim Titla

Charles Nelson