

A great lady gone

In March of this year, Emily Ivanoff Brown was a Governor's Award Honoree for her "lifelong advocacy of teaching Native students pride in their heritage and bilingual education."

At Commencement ceremonies this month at the University of Fairbanks, Alaska, she was to have received an honorary Doctorate for her outstanding contributions in education. She was a lifelong student and a life-long teacher.

Loving and beloved, Emily Ivanoff Brown passed away early Monday morning after a long and recurring illness. She will be sorely missed.

Pat Ivey, Secretary for Alaska Heritage Writers Association, was working with Emily at the time of her death on a biography of this remarkable woman. She said that Emily had a "hunch it wasn't going to be much longer." Ivey had been picked to write her biography after Emily had had repeated requests for an autobiography but said that an autobiography bored her because she had already lived through that which was to be written.

One of Emily Ivanoff Brown's projects cut short by her untimely passing was the building of a multi-cultural center at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, a place where cultures of all peoples could be displayed and honored. It would indeed be a fitting memorial to this beloved woman were the project to be completed and named in her honor.

To the legions of friends of Emily Ivanoff Brown, her family has asked that donations be made to the Emily Ivanoff Brown Fund, University of Alaska Foundation, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. We are hopeful her dreams will finally and successfully be realized. As her biographer so eloquently stated: "Her will will be done."

And to the family goes our deepest condolences.

A great and gifted human has passed on and we are better for having had her in our presence.