

Wallace R. Johnson, 71, loved his church, people

Wallace R. Johnson, a lifetime member of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, died in Ketchikan General Hospital Feb. 9 of a prolonged illness. He was 71 years old.

Mr. Johnson was a veteran of World War II. He served in the U.S. Army from October 1941 to November 1945 and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He served as chaplain of the ANB Camp 14 in Ketchikan for more than seven years.

Mr. Johnson was born in Klawock on June 9, 1917. He was a member of the Haida Nation and the Thunderbird Clan. His Haida name is Saaduuts. His father, the late James C. Johnson, was one of the 12 founders of the ANB in 1912. His mother was Bessie Walters.

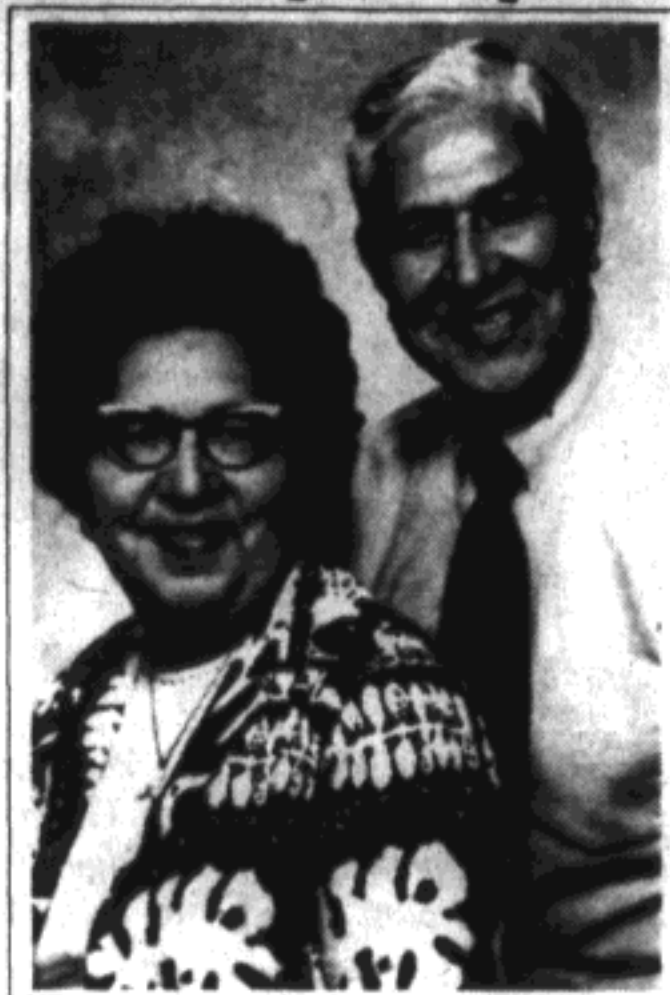
Mr. Johnson is survived by his wife Vesta Johnson of Ketchikan; brothers Reginald Johnson of Anchorage and George Peratrovich of Kodiak; sisters Roseann Peratrovich of Portland, Ore., and Clara Conrad of Tok and Anchorage; stepsons Lloyd Scott and Wilbert Scott of Ketchikan.

He is also survived by many cousins, nieces, nephews, grandchildren and relatives not mentioned.

Wally and Vesta Johnson were married in Sitka on June 9, 1959. They were both active in the Pentecostal Church in Saxman. He was also active in the Haida Society and in Native and community affairs. He was a member of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Sealaska Corp. and Klawock-Heenya Corp.

Memorial services were held on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Church of God on Baranof Avenue in Ketchikan. The Rev. Edward John and The Rev. Bill White officiated. Pallbearers were Paul Young, Don Hoff Jr., Lloyd Scott, Wilbur Scott, Wally Scott and Robert Johnson. Honorary pallbearers were William Wallace, Wilfred Hanbury, Dr. Walter A. Soboleff, Fred John, Elwood Thomas, Reynold Denny, Reginald Johnson, George Peratrovich and Raymond Demmert.

Funeral Services were held at 2 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Sitka ANB Hall. The services were conducted by Mark Jacobs Jr., Sitka ANB president and Capt. Hal Hads of the Salvation Army. Graveside services followed at the



Wallace and Vesta Johnson

Sitka National Cemetery, conducted by the Sitka American Legion.

The family said, "It would serve us all well if we would conduct ourselves like Wally encouraged us all to do: to care about each other and be supportive of common goals. We are fortunate to have been part of his compassionate legacy. Wallace loved his church, his Lord, his family and his people."