



# Village Voices: From Our Home to Your Home



Friends and family paid tribute to Cy Peck, Sr. late last month in Sitka.

Peck, the only surviving, founding member of the Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp #1 of Sitka, is a long-time leader in ANB activities. His past positions include grand president (elected in 1948) and 13 consecutive terms as grand secretary, from 1954-1966. He is credited with founding the "Voice of the Brotherhood," ANB's official newspaper, during this tenure.

## Cleveland retires after 41 years of service

By Anna M. Pickett

Shungnak, AK - After 41 years serving in the Alaska Army National Guard, Command Sergeant Major Levi Cleveland looks forward to spending more time with the people of Shungnak.

"Outside life, outdoor life, hunting, fishing, camping, now I'll have time," said Cleveland.

Cleveland was honored on August 14 by a hometown gathering of family, friends, and colleagues on the occasion of his retirement from the Guard.

Cleveland spent most of his career in the Shungnak area as a strong promoter of the Guard. He enjoys working and training with the young. "I like to work with the young people, that's my thing right now and I hope I can change somebody around that can be successful," Cleveland said.

In a statement at the ceremony, Cleveland said, "For those of you that are in the Guard, I would like to see everyone of you make it through at least 20 years. Those of you that dropped from the service, I hope this serves as a motivation to change and look one more time. It's up to you to make the success work."

"The Guard has given me a lot to be proud of," says Cleveland. He remembers wanting to join the guard so much that he persuaded his parents to authorize his early enrollment at the age of 17-1/2.

"Ever since then, the person that really got me this far was my mom. She didn't have an education, but every time I said, 'Mom, adee! I should quit from the guard', she



would always say in Inupiaq, 'No, no, no! It might help you some day.'"

Cleveland is currently the mayor of Shungnak, and has served on the IRA council as president for 20 years. He is secretary of NANA Regional Corp. He says that he is going to do more work within the region now that he has more time. "That's what it's all about."

"Levi has been one of the soberest leaders, something we have always had a problem with in the guard or any other organization," said retired General John Schaeffer. "Levi showed us that kind of leadership to do what we had to be better and better organized. Many

quit drinking because of it."

Wilfred Lane, also of Shungnak, welcomed Cleveland to the 'Old Man's Club' having worked with him in the Guard. I had no idea I would be a Sgt. Major. Levi always gave encouragement that I stood behind."

"Levi has brought through many changes like the Common Task Testing and always helped people personally," says Sgt. James Commack. "He always stressed training and recruiting. He is an Eskimo scout that displayed courage and self-esteem. The battalion is going to miss him. He always motivated the troops to accomplish the mission and finish the task."