

We lose a friend

We join numerous Alaskans in grieving the loss of Harold Sparck, a tireless advocate for a just, workable Alaskan society. Though neither an Alaska Native nor a native Alaskan, Sparck had a gift of being able to put down local roots while retaining a clear, knowledgeable perspective of the global situation. He fought for rural Alaska like a hometown boy.

Sparck was a deep thinker and passionate warrior for several important causes, most notably rational fisheries development and conservation. We remember him most vividly as a man often ahead of his time, and no more so than when he wrote nearly 20 years ago on the plight of Native villages and the addiction to state and federal grants which has debilitated so many. When the Alaska Natives Commission last year decried the "culture of dependency," they were speaking from a platform partly built on Harold's intellect, integrity and insight.