

Sitka gives Cossack Cap Award

Each year the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce holds its annual banquet to install the new officers and, most importantly, to recognize a person or group in the community who distinguished themselves in unselfish and extraordinary public service to the citizens of Sitka by giving the Royal Order of the Cossack Cap award.

This year the Sitka Chamber of Commerce presented the award to Frank O. Williams, Jr. Williams is the Community Relations Officer at the Mt. Edgecumbe hospital.

The Royal Order of the Cossack Cap is an ancient and honorable society composed in the entirety of individuals, who, having distinguished themselves

in unselfish and extraordinary public service to the citizens of Sitka, the former capital of Russian America. Whoever receives this award is judged worthy to forever wear the Royal Ensign.

Among some of Williams' public service accomplishments are assisting in the organization of the Alaska Native Health Board; the Native Board of Health, now known as SEARHC;

The National Indian Health Board; and the Sitka Community Association Council. He was also one of the original members of the Sitka Health Association.

Currently Williams is a member of the State Comprehensive Health Planning Council which organized the Health Systems Agency (HSA), Governor's Advisory Board on Alcoholism, Governor's Task

Force on Drunk Driving, serves as President of the Sitka ANB, ANB representative in the Chamber of Commerce, Sitka Lions Club, American Legion, Moose, Elks, Sitka Chapter of the Tlingit-Haida Council, delegate to the Tlingit-Haida Central Council, and serves on the Sitka Community Association Council.

Williams, a Mt. Edgecumbe High School graduate, served on

the Mt. Edgecumbe High School task force and played an important part in getting the state to take over and re-open the former BIA school.

Mr. Griffin, president of the Sitka Chamber of Commerce said former winners of the award selected Williams because he has "quietly accomplished many things, but not for the sake of recognition or reward."