

Den Nena Henash - Our Land Speaks
Ut Kah neek - Informing and Reporting
Yupit Qanlautciat - The Way Eskimos Talk
Unangan Tunukun - The Aleuts Speak
Inupiat Paitot - People's Heritage

Special recognition for Upicksoun

To Elaine Upicksoun:

On behalf of the staff of the Alaska Native Health Service I would like to wish you the best after 30 years of federal service.

Your federal career began on July 1, 1960, working as a food service worker wage grade 3 at the hourly rate of \$2.66 an hour! In 1966 you received a promotion to a wage grade 4, then in 1976 you again received a promotion to a wage grade 5 cook position.

You, however, did not stop there with your career, but went on to become a wage grade 8 cook in 1986.

You always strive to do the best you can and are gentle, caring and always willing to give a lending hand. You have continually served in the Dietary Department in an exemplary manner. Your continued dedication to the mission of the medical center is one in which you can be proud.

Best wishes, Elaine, from all your co-workers and staff who have had the privilege to work with you for the past 30 years.

Sincerely,
G.H. Ivey

Alaska Area Native Health Service

Flag burning is not the threat

To the editor:

The issue of flag burning is a very scary thing to me, especially when it reaches a point that the U.S. Congress starts the process of amending the very fabric of American freedom, the U.S. Constitution.

The Bill of Rights is the symbol of our freedom that every school child is taught. It allows us the right to protest, which has been the method of bringing subjects that need addressing before the U.S. public and government. Any wrongs can be addressed that way.

Tyranny starts with erosion of freedom. Where will it end once the process starts?

The very symbol of the United States is our constitution, looked to and admired by most people of the world.

I say "No" to the flag burning amendment. We as a people can survive those incidents. The incident we may not be able to survive is the destruction of that portion of the constitution that guarantees us, as U.S. citizens, freedom.

We can thank the founding fathers for the foresight to include all they did in the Bill of Rights which is there to protect us as U.S. citizens.

Sincerely,
Ralph Guthrie
Petersburg

Praise for courage by Wallis

To Rep. Kay Wallis:

I have watched closely your lone stand on the Native and resident amendment resolution which you introduced in the House. I write to convey my admiration for you to take and face reality.

You alone are willing to face dire consequences and personal abuse to protect your constituents' inseparable and inherent cultural subsistence hunting rights.

Your colleagues may be hard put to

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face up to the unpopular reality that the "Native and rural resident preference" in the rural areas was created for perpetual continuity of our aboriginal rights.

I am deeply saddened to note that our Congressman Don Young, ironically from your area, opposes your stand, already taking a defeatist stance, by attacking the Honorable Justice Thomas Berger and others like him. Unless this congressman wants to be a party to and advocate the "swept under the rug" trail of broken treaties in history, he had better join his constituents instead of advocating for the opposite.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but the Supreme Court which made the

frightening decision and declared our inherent subsistence rights unconstitutional is located in Anchorage, and it's the same court which also declared the local hire law unconstitutional.

Recently, our Native corporations were attacked by our state officials for making a no-bid contract for a local school construction. The state officials also made some unusual derogatory and blackmail statements in the press.

All Alaskans are aware of the unchangeable fact that construction contractors transport their own workers to their work site, and believe me, unless you are a union member or a very highly skilled craftsman you are a helpless outsider looking in.

You see, the two decisions made by our great white fathers are mutually intertwined, perhaps aimed at subjugation and assimilation to the Western culture.

Kay, you are an Indian, and I am an Eskimo, but we live under the same roof. I do not want to see you change your stance even at the risk and cost of being labeled and abused.

The Supreme Court said Alaska had until July 1 to identify their infirmities on the subsistence law. I say you and I have forever to practice our aboriginal laws.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act must not be changed. The state of Alaska must change its constitution to honor the original inhabitants' rights. There is not and will not be room for compromise.

Urban versus rural? Our Native brothers and sisters, siblings and

parents who live in the urban areas must face up to the reality of the old adage, "When in Rome, do as the Romans," and "Give unto Caesar what is Caesar's." There are no two ways about it. They can always retain their aboriginal rights on return to their home countries. It will be there; they have not lost it.

In closing, there are a lot of Swet-zoffs, Wallises and Taalak out there. I fervently hope they speak up.

Abandon the silent and stoical position we were taught to uphold. Answer and respond to the Sam McDowells of this our great land.

I am an Inupiaq,
Sam Taalak
Nuqsut

McAlpine supports self-determination

To the editor:

Many of your readers will recall that I spent seven years as the executive director of the Alaska Native Health Board. In that role, I became painfully aware of the great suffering of rural Alaskans from a host of health problems such as alcohol abuse, suicide, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and family violence.

It is also clear to me that rural residents often lack jobs, adequate housing and good educational opportunities.

Because I retired in March and can now speak as a "private citizen," I have to say frankly that Stephen McAlpine is the only candidate to have the sensitivity to begin to tackle these tough issues.

Let's be candid. McAlpine is running against Tony Knowles, a man who, in my opinion, dealt very poorly with health and Native issues as mayor of Anchorage.

I'm embarrassed to tell you that I supported Knowles for his first term

as mayor. I thought his performance on health issues was so bad that I worked against his second bid.

Let's face it. Knowles is a "pretty face" but he starts from "scratch" in his knowledge and understanding of Native and rural issues.

McAlpine, on the other hand, supports Native self-determination and rural subsistence. The choice is clear to me.

Sincerely,
Denny DeGross
Anchorage

Letters to the editor



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