

Tribal leaders mourn passing of Judge Brady

Tlingit Judge William "Bill" Brady of Sitka died Tuesday, November 14, 1995, at Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital following a heart attack. He was 73.

Brady, beloved husband, father grandfather, great-grandfather, peacemaker and friend, received the burial of a chief. Services were attended by friends, and tribal leaders from as far away as Barrow and Fairbanks, a testament to his tireless efforts to strengthen tribal courts.

The Eagle Clan stood sentry while Brady layed in state at the Sitka Tribe of Alaska Healing House from noon Friday until noon Saturday, luncheons and dinners were served to the bereaved family of Gunaanasti (Bill) while tribute was payed to this quiet and unassuming man. There was a

beautiful and moving memorial service held at the Alaska Native Brotherhood hall in honor of the judge. Brady's family, friends, coworkers, cohorts, and compatriots accompanied the hearse on foot to the funeral, which was held at the Presbyterian Church. Dr. Charles Bovee and several other ministers officiated. The Tlingit singers and accompanist offered beautiful songs at both the memorial and funeral services. Family and tribal members carried Brady to the Sitka National Cemetery where the American Legion gave the grave side rites, and granddaughter, Ms. Dionne Brady-Howard, led the mourners in the singing of the National Anthem in honor of Brady's patriotism. The Sitka Tribe of Alaska hosted a din-

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Tlingit judge lauded for life's work . . .

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ner reception at the Alaska Native Brotherhood hall that evening. Numerous people joined in the reminiscing about Brady's life and accomplishments.

William Murphy Brady was born to Jenny (Jackson) Brady and William Brady, Sr. on May 20, 1922 in Douglas, Alaska. He was born into the Kiks.adi Clan (Raven-Frog). The first Tlingit name he received was "Gunaanasti." He moved to Sitka with and was raised by his grandparents, James Jackson and Ida (Walton) Jackson when he was only one year old and grew up in the Multiplying Wolf House. James Jackson, well-known as "Aanaxoots," was the last traditional Kaagwaantaan chief and Ida Walton was sister to Rudolph Walton, the last traditional Kiks.adi clan house, which was next door to the Kaagwaantaan clan house.

Gunaanasti received his second Tlingit name "Lusta" from Chief Shakes during the Sitka-Wrangell peacemaking potlatch in 1924. Brady was just old enough to remember the boat ride to Wrangell when he traveled with his grandparents who served as peacemakers to put an end to the long-standing war between Sitka and Wrangell. Bill often spoke of the well-founded fear in his young mind he and his grandparents would be killed in order to return a balance between the Tlingits of Sitka and Wrangell. However, their lives were spared and Brady participated in what was one of the last, and most important, traditional peacemaking potlatches in recent oral history.

As a young boy, Brady earned a reputation as a hard worker and spent many long hours at the harbor earning a nickel for every fishing boat he tied to the dock. John Fister, a Norwegian fisherman, recognized Brady's enterprising attitude and hired him at the age of nine as a deckhand on his vessel, the "Actor." Fishing on the Actor

was good and with his earnings, Brady was able to buy his Grandma's house when he was still in his early teens. John became a lifelong friend, and many years later, he got the name "Grandpa John" from Brady's own children.

Brady attended local Sitka elementary schools before going on to high school at Wrangell Institute. Along with many of his friends, he was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II. One requirement for service was the ability to swim. Brady couldn't swim, but still wanted to serve his country. So upon entering the pool he took hold of the toe of another service man and "swam" as they all crossed the pool. Given his gentle disposition, his family still finds it difficult to believe that Brady served as a mortar and drill squad sergeant in the China-Burma-India Campaign. But beloved friend Mac Armstrong still assures family members, through some of those that served under him, "Bill didn't want to make them sorry, but he could if he had to."

During his military service, Brady was decorated with the Good Conduct medal, the China-Burma-India Badge, and the Pacific Theater medal. He received an honorable discharge on June 1, 1946. He then joined the National Guard in the early 1950's, where he became the first Alaska Native to be commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant. He was later promoted to 1st Lieutenant. Despite his desire to make a career in the National Guard, Brady was forced to leave the service when he was hospitalized for tuberculosis. He also attended the training school at Mt. Edgecumbe where he studied to be an electrician and went on to train many others who became journeymen and foremen.

On September 16, 1950, Brady married Isabella Grace Sing at the Old Presbyterian Church on the Sheldon Jackson campus. He built the boat "Actor II" in the early

1960's, which still graces the waters somewhere in Southeast Alaska. In the mid- 1960's, he bought the Tackle Shop which was located by the ANB Harbor. Brady served on the board of the Sitka Native Association, and went on to become one of the early leaders of the Shee Atika Corporation. From 1974 to 1978, he served, without pay in many other corporation positions and other committees. Brady was also a wood carver and director of the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center in the late 1960's.

He began work at Sitka Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse in 1978 as the work therapist for the Alcohol Therapy Services unit at Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital. By 1980, he was the ATS Treatment Director. He was Deputy Executive Director from 1983 to 1984 and became the Executive Director of SCAODA in 1985 and retired from that position in 1989.

Brady was a major influence in the development of culturally-appropriate substance abuse treatment in the State of Alaska. In 1984, he was asked by the State Office on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse to chair the Manpower Development Advisory Committee which established the original certification standards for substance abuse counselors and re-wrote the state-approved curriculum for counselors. He also served on the original Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Certification Review Board, and received awards from the Center for Alcohol and Addictions Studies at the University of Alaska-Anchorage and the National Council on Alcoholism-Juneau for his work in prevention and treatment.

Brady was always active in the various organizations of the Native community. He was a lifelong member of the Alaska Native Brotherhood. He was an active member in the Presbyterian Church, serving as an elder for several terms, and the American Legion. Bill began his work with the

Sitka Tribe of Alaska, formerly the Sitka Community Association, in the 1970's. During his various terms as tribal chairman, vice-chair, and secretary, he developed a reputation for his diplomatic skills and even-handedness.

However, Brady is perhaps most widely known for his service as the first Chief Judge of the Sitka Tribal Court. In his many years on the Tribal Court, Judge Brady pioneered the many hurdles to sovereignty which faced the tribal justice system of Alaska Native governments. One tribal court decision handed down by Brady went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court and established crucial precedent that the Indian Child Welfare Act applies to all Alaska Native children. Even following his 5-way-bypass heart surgery, Bill selflessly continued to be active with the tribe and also served interests of tribal governments statewide, most recently as vice-chair of the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council.

Brady loved fishing, trapping, hunting, and going for car rides with his grandson, Jeremy Brady. He al-

ways had a story and a smile for everyone. His dedication to and his for his wife, children, grandchildren, extended family, friends, community and state will be sorely missed.

He is survived by his wife Isabella G. Brady of Sitka; a brother Jack Jackson of Oak Lawn, IL; sister-in-law Lucille Maxey of Walla Walla, WA; daughters Barbara James, Jennifer Morales, Louise Brady, Judy Lindoff and son Ralph Brady; sons-in-law John James, Eric Morales, and Nick Lindoff; daughter-in-law Diana Brady; "adopted" son and daughter James Swift and Eileen Gallagher; grandchildren Keely, Stella, and John Peter James, Steven and Vanessa Morales, Jeremy Childress, Joshua Lawrence, Natasha, Marcus, Kevin, and Lakrisha Brady, Duane and Nicole Lindoff, Cassandra James, great-grandchildren Christopher, Brittni, and Brentyn James, Trevyn, Trentyn, and Cassarina Day.

