

Convention opens Thursday

Hopson to deliver AFN keynote address

Eddie Hopson, well known Inupiat elder from Barrow, will deliver the keynote address at the 1990 Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention, according to AFN President Julie Kitka.

This year's convention theme is "Celebrating Alaska Native Cultures

and Lifestyles." It is scheduled for Thursday through Saturday at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage.

"Eddie Hopson is an ideal individual to speak to the theme of this year's convention," Kitka said.

She noted that Hopson has been a

respected Native leader for over 20 years, having worked for the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act during the 1960s and, in the following years, to ensure its implementation.

"We chose this year's theme to reflect the diversity and uniqueness of

Alaska Native peoples and cultures," Kitka said. "While much of the delegates' attention — out of necessity — must be focused on subsistence and how Alaska Native people will be affected by the dual system of fish and game management over the long-term,

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we will also be discussing how Alaska Natives can participate more effectively in the larger society."

Kitka said Hopson's knowledge of traditional Native ways and the political experience he has gained over the past 30 years will ensure he provides an excellent interpretation of the AFN theme and the challenges facing Alaska Natives.

Hopson has lived all his life on the North Slope and has served as a director and past president of the Arctic Slope Regional Corp. since its inception in 1972 until 1983.

He also has been a commissioner of the ASRC Housing Authority since 1979 and has served as a commissioner then chairman of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission from 1988 to 1990.

Hopson replaces Wilma Mankiller, principal chief of the Cherokee Nation



of Oklahoma, who had to cancel her appearance at AFN for medical reasons.