# ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY and MUSEUMS ALASKA 2016 Memorials, Juneau

# Elaine Abraham, 1929-2016



Born in Yakutat, Elaine was the daughter of the Teikweidei clan leader Chief Abraham and Susie Bremner, granddaughter of John James Bremner, the Scottish guide who helped the U.S. Army explore the Copper River region.

Elaine attended Sheldon Jackson High School then earned a degree at Arizona's Sage Memorial Nursing School. She worked for the Indian Health Service in Bethel, Sitka and Anchorage and helped develop the rural Health Aide program.

Retired from nursing, Elaine pursued additional academic degrees and served in administration at Sheldon Jackson College, and the University of Alaska as Vice-President for Rural Education Affairs in 1976.

She served on numerous commissions and boards including the Yakutat Native Corporation, the Yakutat Tlingit Tribes Council and the Alaska Native Science Commission and the national American Indian Achievement Award.

#### William E. Brown, 1930–2016



Writer, historian and park planner, Bill Brown served in the Navy before joining the National Park Service (NPS) for a 35-year career in the Northeast, Southwest, and Alaska. His works include histories of the Santa Fe Trail, Gates of the Arctic (1988) and Denali (1991).

Bill was a member of the task force which drafted the Federal legislation resulting in Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980. He authored This Last Treasure (1982) on newly established Alaska parklands, and Islands of Hope: Parks and Recreation in Environmental Crisis (1971). An oral interview is available on a University of Alaska website: http://jukebox. uaf.edu/YUCH/htm/bbrown.htm.

# Robert A. Frederick, 1928–2015



Robert A. Frederick taught history at Alaska Methodist University. During the 1967 Alaska Purchase Centennial, he organized the first conference and proceedings on Alaska history. The conference spurred professional and volunteer history communities, and he with Bob DeArmond of Juneau

and George Hall of the National Park Service created the Alaska Historical Society. He succeeded in getting the State of Alaska to establish the Alaska Historical Commission and served as its first director.

#### Charles Caldwell Hawley, 1929–2016



Chuck Hawley was a geologist, miner, pilot, historian, mentor, and author. His extensive knowledge of Alaska geology benefitted others particularly during the designation of ANILCA lands for preservation or development.

He helped resurrect the Alaska Miner's Association and

documented the history of mining and miners now featured in the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame.

After the 2014 publication of his book A Kennecott Story, he was named Historian of the Year by the Alaska Historical Society. However, Chuck will be best remembered for his ability to see and bring out the best in people; he gave chances to many whom others overlooked.

### Emma Irene Hansen-Mead, 1940–2015



Fairbanks born, Irene was raised and spent her life in Big Delta. She enjoyed all things Alaskan and outdoors including being a crack short with a rifle. She worked at the Delta Junction School for more than 30 years.

In the 1970s she formed the Delta Historical Society to save Rika's Roadhouse and place it on the National Register of Historic Places. She volunteered countless hours there, usually seven days a week in the summers.

When the Sullivan Roadhouse was moved into Delta Junction, she provided historical information and many items displayed there.

## Paul Joseph Kanringuq John, 1929–2015



Born in a sod house, Yup'ik elder Paul John of Toksook Bay worked as a commercial fisherman and cultural advocate. His knowledge and generosity of Yupik traditions and Central Yupik language provided documentation for authors, international museums with Yupik collections, as well as teaching local school students.

John served on Alaska Council of Village Council Presidents, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, the Inuit Circumpolar conference. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

# John Mark Kinney, 1932–2015



John Kinney had two distinct careers: Episcopal priest, then State Archivist.

John drove his VW Beetle to Anchorage in 1958 to serve as curate at All Saints Episcopal Church. After ordination he served numerous rural communities including Holikachuk.

Shageluk, and Cordova before returning to Dallas, Texas.

John launched his second career upon earning library and history degrees. He became the State Archivist in Texas (1968-1976) and then returned to become Alaska State archivist (1976-1987).

He published in the archivist literature. An avid pilot, he flew in Alaska, the Canadian North as well as the lower 48.

#### Wallace Mark Olson, 1932–2015



Originally from the Midwest, Wally Olson came to Nenana in 1962. His deep respect for Alaska Native cultures and history led to a University of Alaska MA and advanced degrees.

Wally taught in Fairbanks and at Juneau-Douglas Community College now University of Alaska Southeast.

Among his publications are The Tlingit: An Introduction to the Their Culture & History (1991) and Through Spanish Eyes: the Spanish Voyages to Alaska, 1774-1792 (2002).

#### James Hollins Richardson, 1928–2016



Jim Richardson worked as a forester for the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon before arriving in Alaska in 1964 just in time for the Good Friday Earthquake.

Upon retirement, Jim served as chair of the committee to form the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm (KMTA) National

Heritage Area. From the seed of an idea through nearly a dozen years of research, advocacy and Congressional testimony the KMTA National Heritage Area bill was signed into law in 2009 by President Obama, the second such area in the western US, and the first in Alaska.

# John Qipqina Schaeffer, Jr., 1939–2016



John Schaeffer, Jr. was an Inpuiat political and military leader from Kotzebue. Educated at Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka, he became a member of the Eskimo Scouts (Alaska Territorial Guard), rising to Alaska National Guard adjutant general and served as Commissioner of the Alaska Department

of Military and Veteran's Affairs.

Active in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, he later helped establish and lead the Northwest Alaska Native Association and NANA Regional Corporation. He represented Northwest Alaska in the state legislature for numerous terms, and was elected the first mayor of the Northwest Arctic Borough. John served on the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission, the University of Alaska Board of Regents and as president of the Alaska Federation of Natives.