

sad news that Richard Frank, an Athabascan elder, died at age 85.

Richard Frank is an individual of great significance in the history of post-statehood Alaska. He was among the first Alaska Native leaders to recognize the risk that development of the modern State of Alaska posed to the subsistence lifestyle of traditional villages like his home village of Minto in Interior Alaska. He was among the first Native leaders to organize his people in opposition to State land selections that would prejudice the eventual settlement of the aboriginal land claims of Alaska Natives. And his leadership, recognized throughout the State, is one of the reasons that the Native peoples of Alaska won their battle for land claims with passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

Richard Frank was born on August 27, 1927, in Old Minto. He was educated at the village school. Some historians say that the village school provided an education up to the third grade. Others say it was the fourth. What is undisputed is that Richard Frank possessed a sense of adventure and wisdom far beyond his formal education. Growing up around the fishing and trapping camps of the Yukon River he gained an appreciation of the interdependence between the land and the Native way of life. But some would say it was his experience in the Army Air Corps during World War II that best prepared him for the leadership role he would occupy in the 1960s.

Richard's wartime experience is chronicled in Fern Chardonnet's book, "Alaska at War, 1941–1945." She relates that World War II presented an extraordinary opportunity for Alaska Natives. Many, for the first time, received the same pay and benefits as White workers, and a chance to acquire new skills and to build genuine self esteem. Richard Frank was a case in point. Upon enlisting he was encouraged to pursue specialized training as an aircraft mechanic. At first he said, "No," but his commanding officer had confidence in Richard and he agreed to pursue the training. Richard relates that the passing score in training was 2.5 and he completed the course with a 3.9. He went on to service P-47 fighters in the South Pacific.

Richard regarded himself as lucky. Service in the military showed young men from the village that there was another option. After the war Richard worked as a mechanic for Wien Alaska Airlines and Boeing, though his heart remained in village Alaska.

The son of a traditional village chief, he found his calling in the early 1960s as the battle for Alaska's lands was beginning. The Alaska Statehood Act gave the State of Alaska the right to select lands but left resolution of Alaska Native land claims for another day.

One of the areas where State land selections first conflicted with Native hunting, fishing, and trapping activities was in the Minto Lakes region of

Interior Alaska. The State wanted to establish a recreation area in 1961 near the Athabascan village of Minto and to construct a road so that the region would be more easily accessible to Fairbanks residents and visiting sportsmen. In addition, State officials believed that the area held potential for future development of oil and other resources.

Learning of these plans of the State, Minto filed a protest with the U.S. Interior Department. The people of Minto had filed blanket claims to the area in the 1930s, and Richard's father, then Traditional Chief, delineated this area as belonging to the Minto people in 1951. Minto asked the Federal agency to protect their rights to the region by turning down the State's application for the land. Minto's attorney was none other than the late Senator Ted Stevens who took up their cause *pro bono*.

In response to the protest, a meeting of sportsmen, biologists, conservationists, and State officials was held in 1963 to discuss the proposed road and recreation area.

Richard argued that State development in the region would ruin the subsistence way of life of the Natives and urged that the recreation area be established elsewhere, where new hunting pressure would not threaten the traditional economy. He said, "A village is at stake. Ask yourself this question, is a recreation area worth the future of a village?"

He also took his cause to the Alaska Conservation Society in Anchorage. He told the conservation society members that without the use of the lakes, Minto's people would go hungry. Lael Morgan, in her landmark book, "The Life and Times of Howard Rock," relates Richard's pleas for support. He said, "Nothing is so sorrowful for a hunter, empty handed, to be greeted by hungry children."

A 1985 history of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act characterized Minto's protest as a precursor of events to come. During the years that followed, many other Native communities would protest actions that threatened their lands. In 1966, Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall gave the land claims movement teeth by initiating a freeze on the transfer of lands to the State which were protested by the Native people.

As a well respected Native leader and elder, Richard went on to play significant roles in the Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Fairbanks Native Association. He served on the Governor's Veterans Advisory Committee and founded the Alaska Native Veterans Association. It is also appropriate to acknowledge Richard's role as the patriarch of one of the truly great Fairbanks families. Richard's wife of 57 years, Anna, became the first Native American woman ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church in 1983. Richard was the father of four and was blessed with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

As a significant figure in Alaska's history, Richard was generous to collectors of oral history. One of those oral histories was done for the Alaska Trappers Association, which notes, "Richard freely shares insight into the Native view of the world. He takes great pride in their dedication to family. He speaks often of the lessons he learned from his elders."

Alaska has truly lost a significant figure. If it is any condolence, Richard's life experiences were rich, he accomplished a great deal for his Native people, and he supported a truly wonderful family. Thanks to modern technology, his stories and life experiences will live on for eternity.

On behalf of the Senate I extend condolences to Reverend Anna, Richard's family, and the Athabascan people of Interior Alaska who are preparing to honor and celebrate Richard's life next week with a Memorial Potlatch. ●

REMEMBERING BARNEY UHART

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn that Barney Uhart of Anchorage, AK passed away on September 8, 2012 after a long battle with cancer. Barney was President Emeritus of the Chugach Alaska Corporation, one of the thirteen regional Alaska Native Corporations. Chugach Alaska Corporation is owned by over 2,300 shareholders of Alutiiq, Eskimo and Indian heritage.

Barney was elected President and CEO of Chugach Alaska Corporation in May 2000 and served in that role until July 2012. In July he announced his retirement to focus on his health and spend time with his family. But the Chugach Alaska Corporation board would not let him go. That is how Barney earned the title of President Emeritus.

Barney was a master in administering Base Operations Services contracts, a field he entered into on something of a lark. As the story goes, while living in Hawaii he was delivering furniture with a friend to a company called Kentron International. This was back in 1979. He wondered what they did and slipped a resume under the door. A few days later he learned that they managed remote sites and was on his way to Wake Island. Over the course of his career Barney came to know more about places like Wake Island, Midway Island and Amchitka than anyone I know. He would return to Wake Island many times over the course of his career, helping his successor employers win that Base Operations Support contract. You might even call him the Mayor Emeritus of Wake Island.

Barney joined the Chugach Alaska family in 1993 as an Operations Manager with Chugach Development Corporation. Known as a charismatic leader and a hard worker, he quickly rose through the ranks. Those at Chugach Alaska tell me that his dedication to the company, its people and employees

was steadfast. His hard work and commitment helped provide real, tangible, and ongoing benefits to the Native shareholders of Chugach Alaska. He strove tirelessly to help fulfill the promise of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. His work in opening up the 8(a) program to meaningful participation by Alaska Natives, Lower 48 Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiians is recognized throughout the Native American contractor community.

Barney Uhart will be remembered as a leader, a friend and a champion of doing the right thing and doing things right. I express my condolences to his wife Randi, his children Jordan, Abigail and Jacob, and the shareholders of Chugach Alaska Corporation on the loss of this exemplary Alaskan.●

COAST GUARD PAY AND PERSONNEL CENTER

● Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 30th anniversary of the U.S. Coast Guard Pay and Personnel Center in Topeka, KS. The Coast Guard's Pay and Personnel Center was first established in 1979 in the greater Washington, DC, area. In 1982 the center permanently moved to the Frank Carlson Federal Building in Topeka. My staff and I have the honor of working with this dedicated team of leaders on a regular basis.

The Pay and Personnel Center offers a specific and imperative service to more than 100,000 men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard. Spanning from human resources, to processing, disbursement, and other services, the Pay and Personnel Center has continued to operate without much attention or fanfare but with the goal of providing the compensation and services necessary to keep our Coast Guardians focused, secure, and dedicated.

Today, I offer congratulations and accolades to the Pay and Personnel Center on 30 years of hard work and superior service to our men and women in the U.S. Coast Guard. The center is a shining example of the Coast Guard motto, *Semper Paratus, Always Ready*.●

AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding accomplishments of Air Force Space Command. And of course, I offer my deep respect and thanks to the 42,000 men and women who keep constant watch over our most distant skies. These great Americans are responsible for a staggering range of essential missions, and this week, I join them in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the command's creation.

Air Force Space Command was established in 1982 as our national leaders recognized the growing need to dominate the space domain to enhance our warfighting capabilities and to better protect our servicemembers. The command's responsibilities and capabilities have steadily increased over the past 30 years to keep pace with technology and

foreign threats, and from the outset, those missions have been a critical part of our national defense architecture.

All day, every day, Air Force Space Command personnel provide our warfighters with the space-based assets they require at the speed of need. And at the same time, they keep a major portion of our economy, travel, and transportation on track. They fly the GPS satellites that make modern computing, air travel, and precision munitions possible. Air Force Space Command provides our Nation with global ballistic missile early warning and defense. Without Air Force Space Command, there would be no military satellite communications and our meteorological and navigational data would be far less advanced and accurate. These airmen and civilians of Space Command demonstrate amazing technical and scientific proficiency as they conduct space based surveillance, land-based intercontinental ballistic missile operations, and most recently, prosecute a cyber space mission that is growing more essential to our security every day. Their capabilities have strengthened our Nation's homeland defense, allowed disaster relief efforts to be more timely and efficient, and enhanced America's military operational capabilities in all stages of warfare. Simply put, without Air Force Space Command, the strategic and technological advantages enjoyed by both the military and civilian communities in the United States would not be possible.

Of course, all of these tremendous accomplishments are due to the remarkable devotion to duty, sacrifice, and dedication displayed by Space Command personnel around the world every day. As we all know, our service men and women, both active duty and those in the Reserve component, aren't simply serving in the military—they are our military. Additionally, civilian members of Air Force Space Command provide the stability and corporate knowledge that's essential to the command's enduring success. Yes, it's a true total force effort. Colorado is the proud home of Air Force Space Command headquarters, but right now, their personnel are deployed to every corner of the globe, providing unparalleled space and cyber space expertise to combatant commanders in every theater of operations. As they celebrate yet another milestone, I would like to honor these patriots for their selfless service and dedication to our Nation's security. On behalf of all Coloradans and to every member of Air Force Space Command, past and present: happy 30th anniversary.●

REMEMBERING EDWARD D. PARE

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, the State of Rhode Island has lost a dear and dedicated public servant. Captain Edward D. Pare was a sworn officer of the Rhode Island State Police for 2½ decades, from 1959 until his retirement in 1986.

Captain Pare was a true son of Rhode Island, born in Coventry, RI. In addition to serving our State, he also served his country in the U.S. Navy, sailing appropriately enough aboard the USS Pawcatuck, named for the river that flows across the southern part of our State.

Captain Pare left an indelible mark on the force. He was captain of detectives for many years prior to his retirement. In this important role, Captain Pare had his hand in every major investigation undertaken by the State police during that period. His leadership and commitment were the hallmarks of his stint with the department and set an example for a generation of officers. Even beyond his retirement, Captain Pare was known in law enforcement circles and across Rhode Island as simply "The Captain."

During his tenure with the State police, Captain Pare acted as both the head of the Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles and the director of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation. There had been concerns raised about mismanagement and corruption at these agencies. Captain Pare, as the "gold standard" of competence, rigor, and integrity, provided public assurance that any such problems would be met and mastered.

Captain Pare's sense of public service was a family value, carried on by his sons, Ed and Steven. During our Rhode Island banking crisis, I had the pleasure of working alongside Ed at the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation, where he worked for the people of Rhode Island for many years in a number of roles, including superintendent of banking and superintendent of the securities division. Steven followed his father's path into the State police, rising in his 26 years to the rank of colonel and serving as State trooper, detective, and superintendent of the force. Steven continues his work in law enforcement and homeland security today as commissioner of public safety for the city of Providence.

Captain Pare is survived by his beloved wife Phyllis, and in addition to Ed and Steven, he leaves behind his daughter Diane, son Gary, and 12 grandchildren. The captain's impact on our communities was profound, and his legacy of integrity and service to others will be remembered by Rhode Islanders for a long time to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United