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Don Wright with President Richard Nixon. Courtesy Doyon Ltd.

NATIVE LEADER AND LAND CLAIMS PIONEER PASSES AWAY AT 84

A driving force behind the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and former president of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), CIRI shareholder Don Wright passed away peacefully in his home in Kenai on July 5. He was 84.

Wright was born in Nenana in 1929. His father was of Athabascan descent from the village of Tanana and his mother was from Wyoming. He impacted the state through his work in construction, air service in the Interior, community organizations and his immense ability to connect with people from all walks of life, with which eventually landed him in politics. He will be remembered most for the pivotal role he played in seeking the fairest settlement possible for Alaska Native people during a tumultuous era.

As AFN president from 1970 to 1972, Wright fought to secure Alaska Native land rights, meeting with President Nixon in 1971 to encourage the nation's leader to pass the bill that would grant 40 million acres to Alaska Native people and create today's Alaska Native corporations.

CIRI Chair Emeritus Roy Huhndorf stated, "Don was the right man for the challenging time. He was a tough negotiator and skillful leader."

"Don was the right man for the challenging time. He was a tough negotiator and skillful leader."

– CHAIR EMERITUS ROY HUHDORF

Dedicated to settling Alaska Native land claims, Wright spent nights sleeping on the streets in Washington, D.C., and maxed out his credit card to pay for 20 individuals from Alaska to travel with him to lobby for the legislation.

"He was in a very difficult position because we were desperately trying to hold the [AFN] organization together," Willie Hensley told the Alaska Dispatch News. "We had no funding but he was able to work with the Nixon administration to get their backing for the settlement. We were also able to secure loans from some tribes – I think we borrowed about \$800,000 – and he was a big factor in securing that funding."

"The President and the Congress must decide whether this last chapter [of land rights] is to be written in dignity or dishonor," Wright had said. On that same day, April 6, 1971, President Nixon sent

NATIVE LEADER PASSES AWAY, CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

VILLAGE OF TYONEK UNITES TO FIGHT AND RECOVER FROM RECENT WILDFIRE

On May 27, when a much-needed rain descended upon Southcentral Alaska, residents of Tyonek saw the beginning of an end to a wildfire that had blazed for almost 10 days. The fire burned through 1,906 acres, causing a temporary evacuation of the village and displacing more than 100 residents for several days.

In response, several organizations and the community of Tyonek itself came together to fight the fire and help the people affected to get back on their feet.

"Since we are a rural community, our families have not only been fighting the fire alongside the firefighters, we have also been preparing meals and providing housing," said Debra Call, Tyonek Native Corporation corporate administration director, in an email sent to the Tikahtnu Forum before the fire had been contained. "This is a very stressful time for all of us; however, it is so appreciated to have members of the Tikahtnu Forum stand beside us in our time of need."

TYONEK FIGHTS WILDFIRE, CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Tyonek residents and firefighters preparing to fight the wildfire. Courtesy of Tyonek.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sophie Minich, CIRI president and chief executive officer

Every year, federal, state and local governments make decisions or pass laws that affect Alaska Native people. Subsistence rights, educational funding, development of Native-owned land – so many aspects of our lives are impacted by decisions made at one level of government or another. It's easy to get frustrated with lawmakers when the regulations they put in place don't reflect our Native values.

"I encourage every CIRI shareholder and descendant of voting age to make sure they are registered to vote, then put that voting power to work by showing up at the polls on Election Day."

– SOPHIE MINICH

Whether you live in Alaska, where Alaska Native issues are frequently debated, or in the Lower 48, it's important to remember that you have a say in whether and how laws get made. When you cast your vote in primary and general elections, you help determine the future not only for Alaska Native people, but for your community, as well.

In Alaska, the primary is coming up on August 19, followed by the nationwide general election in November. Alaskans face a lot of big voting decisions. Two of our congressmen, Senator Mark Begich and Congressman Don Young, are up for reelection. Three Republican candidates will compete in the primary election for a chance to represent Alaska in the U.S. Senate. All 40 members of the Alaska House of Representatives, as well as 14 of Alaska's Senate seats, will be up for reelection. Not to mention the gubernatorial race, in which Alaskans will select from seven candidates to determine who will govern our state for the next four years.

Additionally, primary voters in Alaska will be asked to approve or reject Ballot Measure 1, which makes significant changes to the oil and gas production tax. CIRI, along with five other Alaska Native corporations, formed a coalition to advocate against Ballot Measure 1. As I stated in last month's newsletter, CIRI's involvement in the No One on One effort is based on

our belief that repealing the current oil tax structure will be bad for CIRI businesses and hurt the Alaska economy.

Regardless of your individual positions on issues and candidates, I encourage every CIRI shareholder and descendant of voting age to make sure they are registered to vote, then put that voting power to work by showing up at the polls on Election Day. Participating in primary and general elections is our chance to let our elected officials know what issues are important to us.

Maybe you're thinking, "But I'm just one person. What difference can a single vote possibly make?" You might be surprised to discover that, more than once, one vote has made all the difference in an election. For instance, in 1960, less than one vote per precinct elected John F. Kennedy president of the United States. In 1994, 1.1 votes per precinct elected Tony Knowles as governor of Alaska.

When you cast your vote, though, you also have the potential to become part of a larger voice. According to the Get Out the Native Vote movement, the Alaska Native people constitute about 14 percent of the adult population in Alaska. If all Native people voted during a normal turnout year, roughly 25 percent of the electorate at the polls would be Alaska Native. This voting bloc has the potential to be more powerful than the Republican, Democratic and non-partisan vote.

For those shareholders who live in Alaska, you can find more information, including how to register, at <http://www.elections.alaska.gov/>. For those living outside Alaska, I encourage you to inquire with your appropriate state agency to ensure your vote can be counted.

In the meantime, you can cast a vote of a different kind by submitting a nomination for the CIRI Shareholder and Elder Shareholder of the Year Awards. Every year, we honor shareholders who have shown dedication to Alaska Native culture, heritage and communities. So many CIRI shareholders have made incredible contributions to Alaska Native people, worked to preserve our culture and passed



COURTESY OF YUIT, LLC.

HIGHLIGHTS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Every vote counts! Make sure you're registered to vote.
- In Alaska, the primary election is August 19.
- You can also submit a nomination for the CIRI Shareholder, Elder Shareholder and Youth Recognition awards at www.ciri.com.

traditions and knowledge on to others. Let's celebrate their work!

In addition to the Shareholder and Elder of the Year Awards, we're also taking nominations for the Youth Recognition Award. There's an entire generation of CIRI shareholders and descendants who are already making strides toward becoming tomorrow's Alaska Native leaders, and we want to honor them.

The criteria and the nomination form for each award is on the CIRI website. I encourage you to nominate a shareholder or descendant who you feel deserves recognition this year.



Sophie Minich

SHAREHOLDER PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

CIRI welcomes the following new Shareholder Participation Committee (SPC) members:

Alaska SPC Committee

Teresa Alexie, Kalskag
Herbert Butler, Fairbanks
Georgia Mario, Nikolaevsk

Anchorage SPC Committee

Arnold Hague
Debbie Jacobson
Luanne Pelagio

Lower 48 and Hawaii SPC Committee

Hope Hagan, Michigan
Paul Shippey, Washington
Pamela Youngs, Tennessee

Each year, SPC members are chosen through a random drawing from the names of voting shareholders who are at least 18 years of age, and have indicated an interest in participating on a committee and correctly answered the questionnaire about CIRI that is mailed to all voting shareholders prior to the Annual Meeting of Shareholders. **The correct answers for the 2014 questionnaire are shown to the right.**



Which of the following statements are true? (Check all that apply)

- Non-Native CIRI shareholders do not have voting rights associated with their CIRI stock.
(This was the most-often missed question this year.)
- Whether a shareholder owns 100 shares of stock or only 2 shares, as long as he or she has provided appropriate documentation to CIRI to substantiate his or her Native descent, the shares will carry voting rights.
- An individual may demonstrate Native descent by submitting a birth certificate showing that he or she is descended from someone identified on CIRI's records as a Native shareholder. In some cases, it may also be necessary to provide additional documents (e.g., a marriage license, divorce decree, adoption decree, other individuals' birth certificates, etc.) to demonstrate ancestry.
- An individual may demonstrate Native descent by submitting to CIRI a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB), obtained from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, indicating the degree of Alaska Native Blood quantum.
- When CIRI stock owned by a non-Native shareholder is inherited by a descendant of a Native who furnishes adequate documentation to CIRI to prove his or her Native descent, the inherited shares carry voting rights.
- If a potential heir does not furnish adequate documentation to CIRI to prove his or her Native descent, the shares may still be issued, but would not carry voting rights. (Because the right to vote is so important, even if the documentation is not initially provided, CIRI encourages that it be furnished as soon as possible so that the shares may be reissued to carry voting rights.)

WELLS FARGO DONATES HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT LAND NEAR EKLUTNA VILLAGE

Amid the dance performances and festivities at this year's Native Village of Eklutna Dena'ina Potlatch and Pow-wow, a historic moment took place as Wells Fargo donated 143 acres of land near the Native Village of Eklutna to The Conservation Fund for permanent land and habitat preservation.

"This donation is being made to honor the Dena'ina people by returning land that has immeasurable cultural and spiritual value," Joe Everhart, Wells Fargo Alaska regional president, said in a press release.

The property, located about 25 miles northeast of Anchorage, has cultural and historical significance to the Dena'ina Athabascan people. It is home to traditional nichilq'a (semi-subterranean dwellings)



› Dance group performing at the Potlatch and Pow-wow. Courtesy of Eklutna, Inc.

and storage caches that represent the few remaining Dena'ina structures still standing. Local people also frequent the land for traditional subsistence activities such as hunting, fishing and berry-picking.

Originally part of a 160-acre homestead, the property has been held by Wells Fargo or affiliated banks since 1924. Since that time, Wells Fargo had discussed developing the land, but ultimately decided that the cultural significance of the property was more important than its economic value.

The Conservation Fund, an environmental nonprofit with a history of working with Alaska Native people, will set up an easement for the property, then transfer it to an Eklutna, Inc.-affiliated nonprofit.

The donation of the land took place during a ceremony at the June 8 potlatch, which also kicked off the National Congress of American Indians mid-year conference in Anchorage.

"When we got the word from Joe, we were thrilled and filled with such emotion that it took several days for the news to sink in," said Curtis McQueen, CEO of Eklutna, Inc. "We are grateful for the vision and respect shown by Wells Fargo toward the Dena'ina people." ≡

SPOTLIGHT



› Jerome, Cynthia and Mark during her reuniting trip in Alaska. Courtesy of Cynthia Darosett.

Cynthia Darosett: Reunited

Early on the morning of February 4 of this year, four words took Cynthia Darosett's breath away: "The twins found us."

The CIRI shareholder stood in her Colorado home with her phone to her ear as her youngest son explained that the twin boys she'd long ago given up for adoption had made contact. Three months later, Cynthia was back in Alaska, face-to-face with the sons she thought she'd never see again.

"I thought about the twins all the time, especially on their birthday," Cynthia says.

"This year, I was so upset because I really felt like giving up. I thought I would never find them."

Instead, Cynthia's sons, 26-year-olds Jerome and Mark, found her by connecting with a cousin on Facebook.

"To this day, I feel guilty for giving them up, but I think I made the only decision that I could at the time – to give them a better home than what I could provide."

– CYNTHIA DAROSETT

Born as Bruce Allen and Christopher Michael, the boys were the second and third children for an already struggling 17-year-old Cynthia. Her first child was only 13 months old when she brought her premature twins home from Providence Hospital.

Trying to care for three babies as a young mother was simply too much. "I was feeding one, and then the other would wake up and need feeding," she recalls. "My husband at the time was working nights, so I was by myself with a twin in each arm and a toddler who was getting into everything. And the twins required so much attention because they were so little. To this day, I feel guilty for giving them up, but I think I made the only decision that I could at the time – to give them a better home than what I could provide."

Cynthia's reunion with her sons took place at a Thai restaurant in Wasilla. "When I walked in, they each gave me a hug, and the embrace was just overwhelming."

In the days after meeting her twins, Cynthia spent time with her new extended family, which includes three grandchildren and one granddaughter on

REMINDER: AWARD NOMINATIONS, YOUTH ART CONTEST ENTRIES AND YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE APPLICATIONS. DUE AUG. 14, 2014

SHAREHOLDER OF THE YEAR, ELDER OF THE YEAR AND YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARD NOMINATIONS

We need your help to recognize CIRI shareholders who have made incredible contributions to Alaska Native people, worked to preserve our culture and passed traditions and knowledge on to others.

There's an entire generation of CIRI shareholder and descendant young people who are already making strides toward becoming tomorrow's Alaska Native leaders, and we want to honor them, as well.

Help us celebrate their work by submitting a nomination to CIRI for the CIRI Shareholder and Elder Shareholder of the Year Awards and the Youth Recognition Award by 5 p.m. Alaska Daylight Time, August 14.

Visit www.ciri.com to learn more.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES 2014 Youth Representative Position

CIRI is currently seeking applications from CIRI shareholders and descendants who are 13 to 17 years of age to fill the 2014 Shareholder Participation Committees (SPC) Youth Representative positions.

Youth representative applications and supporting materials must be received by CIRI by 5 p.m. Alaska Daylight Time on August 14 to be considered.

Youth representative application packets can be downloaded and printed at www.ciri.com.

Youth Art Contest

For younger CIRI shareholders and descendants who are 5 to 12 years of age, we are pleased to host an annual art contest.



› Keren A. Bennett, Inupiaq, 2013 First Place Award. Category: 9 to 12 years of age. Parent: Christine Katrina Bennett.

An interested CIRI shareholder or descendant who is 5 to 12 years of age may submit original artwork interpreting the theme "Cultural Diversity" and a completed entry form to CIRI by 5 p.m. Alaska Daylight Time on August 14 to be entered in the 2014 Youth Art Contest. Winning entries will be displayed at the CIRI and The CIRI Foundation Friendship Potlatches this fall.

Youth Art Contest entry forms can be downloaded and printed at www.ciri.com. ≡

www.ciri.com >>

SPOTLIGHT, CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

MISSING SHAREHOLDERS

The following CIRI shareholders do not have a current mailing address on record. When CIRI mail is returned as undeliverable, the CIRI records are placed on hold and any distributions are held pending receipt of a valid address. Shareholders can fill out the change of address form at CIRI's offices, download it from the CIRI website or send a signed and dated letter that includes the new address, telephone number, birth date and the last four digits of their social security number.

Thelma Victoria Baker	John Rodney King
Carrie Meldrich Beck	Lili Blevins Kipp
Donna Irene Beltz	Evelyn Pearl Kline
Victor Brent Breedon	Mary Rita Komakhuk
Steven Patrick Bright	Joseph Claude Komok
Agnes Brookey	Pamela Kooly
James Patrick Brown	Andre Lee LaFrance
Brian Leslie Buck	Sean Michael Lestenkof
Diana Marie Call	Amelia Victoria Mainord
Michael Vincent Cantrell	Bil Wayne Mantor
Nadia Linda Carreira	Michael West Mason
Christopher Evan Chapman	Mitchell Kent Miller
Oliver Wendell Chapman	David Matthew Moore
James Dennis Clark	Shaun Michael Moore
Christine C. Cox	Charles Lewis Mumchuck
Gregory Lawrence Craig	Hannah Marie Mylander
William Al Crisp	Dawn Marie Nesja
Rose Marie Criss	Autumn Lee Olson
Katherine Eileen Cross	Karen Lynn Ostby
Lucy Demantle	Orrin Theodore Pinard
Jonathan Kevin Detwiler	Annette Janis Piscocya
Christy Lynn Downs	Stacy Laine Poage-Cronin
William D. Ferguson	Vivian Ann Pomeroy
Orawanda Lou Ann Foust	Sidra Danielle Rednall
Matthew Lee Fox	Carolyn O. Reifsnyder
Francielia Gangwer	Patricia Ann Rhymes
Mandy Lyn Gardner	Rebecca Ashley Roehl
Elizabeth Rae Garza	Mildred M. Russell
Terry Neill Gilligan	Susan Diane Sannes
Dorothy Ann Gooden	Michael James Schatz
Mabel Hall	Sonja Sue Shuravloff-Gisler
Kathleen Mae Hallstead	Jacqueline Sue Silook
Echo Vatina Hammons	Jennifer Renae Sonnen
Sherenna Lorraine Hansen	Hopeful Lucy Standifer
Scott Alan Heistand	Edward Lee Swift
Diana Dawn Henderson	Veronica Ann Takeuchi
Trudy Ellen Hodgins	David Angelo Terry
Christopher Marion-Stone	Sean Anthony Tetpon
Jacobsson	Marilyn Janet Thomas
Bernard William Johnson Jr.	Sara Louise Thorpe
Debra Ann Johnson	Curtis O'Malley Tindall Sr.
Michael Joseph Johnson	Martin Wassilie
Steven Blackjack Johnson	Sandra Lee Whitley
David James Jordan	Deborah Mae Winkelman
Alyssa J. Kashevaroff	

ARTFULLY DONE: CIHA RAISES AWARENESS WITH POP-UP PROJECT

If you're out and about in Anchorage this summer, you may have already noticed some unique works of art popping up around town. In June, Cook Inlet Housing Authority (CIHA) kicked off Housing Matters, a pop-up art project that features house-shaped paintings commissioned from nine local artists.

The project is meant to inspire a conversation about the importance of affordable housing for all Alaskans, says CIRI shareholder and CIHA President and CEO Carol Gore.

"Housing matters to everyone," she says. "It's essential for economic success for families and the business community, for the well-being of children and elders, and for a thriving, vibrant community. We know the cost to build in our community is especially challenging, so we're working community-wide to catalyze local housing incentives and new resources."

CIRI descendant and artist Danielle Larsen knows first-hand how tough it can be to find affordable housing. "I chose to be part of this project because – as an emerging artist – it's great exposure, but CIHA also helped me buy my first house," she explains.

Larsen is completing her bachelor's degree in painting and Alaska Native art with the support of scholarships from The CIRI Foundation. She works in a variety of mediums, including skin sewing, beading, carving and casting.

Her CIHA painting depicts an owl, an animal she's always found herself drawn to. Larsen hopes other individuals and families will see the art project and be inspired to talk about housing issues.

The CIHA art project is mobile and will move between locations all over town, including the Park Strip, Town Square, Dimond Center and the Downtown Anchorage Market. In October, the campaign will end with an auction of the paintings; proceeds will benefit CIHA's Resident Engagement Initiative for Elders.

For more information about CIHA's Housing Matters project, visit www.cookinlethousing.org/housingmatters.



"Owl Be Watching You" pop-up art by CIRI descendant Danielle Larsen.

www.cookinlethousing.org

SIGN UP FOR eNEWSLETTERS AND BE ENTERED INTO PRIZE DRAWINGS, 7" KINDLE FIRE HD

Your email address must be valid to win!

The winner of the second quarter eNewsletter drawing for a 7" Kindle Fire HD was CIRI shareholder Vanessa Marie Keene of Bakersfield, Calif.

Shareholders enrolled in the eNewsletter Program receive interactive versions of the Raven's Circle in lieu of paper newsletters. They receive their CIRI news faster, and CIRI saves on printing, processing and postage costs.

To increase participation, CIRI is conducting quarterly drawings for a 7-inch Kindle Fire HD from the names of all shareholders with a valid email address who are enrolled in the eNewsletter program. Shareholders have two more opportunities to win this year, with drawings conducted for the quarters ending Sept. 30 and Dec. 31. An email is sent to each winner at the email address specified for receipt of CIRI eNewsletters. If the email address is not valid, another winner will be selected.



Not enrolled in the eNewsletter program? Download an eNewsletter subscription form from the CIRI website at www.ciri.com or call (907) 263-5191 or toll-free at (800) 764-2474.

IN MEMORY

John H. Littlefield, 67

John H. Littlefield passed away May 24 at SEARHC Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital in Sitka, Alaska. Mr. Littlefield was born Oct. 10, 1946, in Sitka, Alaska. He is survived by his wife, Roby; and children, Victor, Daniel, Edward and Cassandra.

Condolences

Rose Courtright, 75	Johnnie Karl Kamkoff, 34
Elaine Lena Holm, 69	Deborah Patricia Tolen, 59
Michelle Lynn Johnson, 44	Lawrence M. Wade, 70

STOCK INFO

\$200 STOCK WILL PRIZE WINNER

The winner of the June 2014 \$200 Stock Will Participation Prize is **Kira Mae Bouwens**.

APPLE iPad MINI WINNER

The winner of the second quarter drawing for an Apple iPad Mini with Retina display is **Flora Violet Beuning**.

Shareholders will have two more opportunities to win an Apple iPad Mini in 2014, with drawings conducted for the quarters ending Sept. 30 and Dec. 31.

To be eligible for the \$200 monthly prize drawings and the quarterly drawings for an iPad Mini with Retina

display, you must have a valid will on file in CIRI's Shareholder Relations Department and your will must comply with CIRI's fractional share policy. The CIRI Stock Will form, instructions and information on the fractional share policy may be found on the CIRI website.

Do you have a valid stock will on file?

As of June 30, 2014, 2,580 CIRI shareholders did not have stock wills on file at CIRI. There are issues with the stock wills of an additional 426 shareholders, and these shareholders have been so advised. Contact CIRI's probate staff at (907) 263-5191 or toll-free at (800) 764-2474 and select option 4 to verify whether you have a will on file.



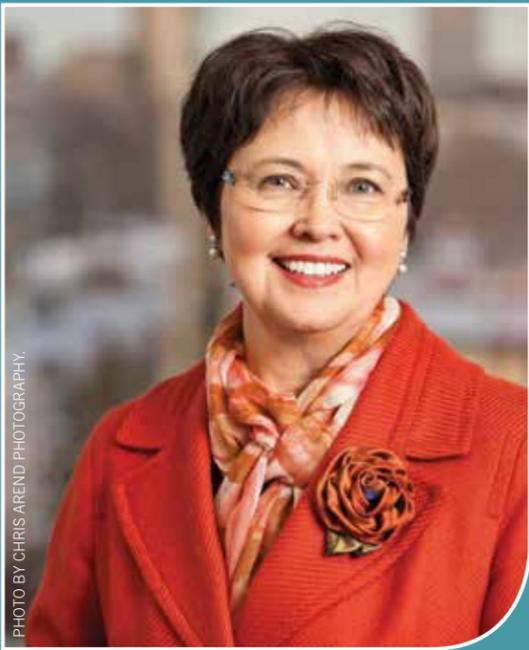


PHOTO BY CHRIS AREND PHOTOGRAPHY.

ACHIEVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

CIRI shareholder, former CIRI president and CEO and prior CIRI Director Margie Brown was selected to become a National Association of Corporate Directors' Board Leadership Fellow through demonstrating a commitment to boardroom leadership and leading on the emerging issues and leading practices that define exemplary corporate governance. Brown's service includes serving as a director at Alaska Communications Systems Group, Inc., the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Inc., Commonwealth North, the Nature Conservancy in Alaska, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, the Student Conservation Association, Inc. and the Trust for Public Land. 🗨️



COURTESY OF DR. M. TERESA TRASCRIPTI.

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

CIRI descendent Francis Joseph Trascritti graduated from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, with a Master of Business Administration degree on May 24.

Frank wore the distinctive Army Veterans stole during his graduation. He has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at the University of Cincinnati, majoring in Strategic Management, and will start his doctoral studies in August. He is the son of CIRI shareholder Dr. M. Teresa Trascritti and husband Dr. Fran Trascritti, and grandson of CIRI shareholder Ernie Watson and Virgie Watson. 🗨️

CELEBRATING THE DENA'INA WELLNESS CENTER'S GRAND OPENING

Decades of planning and anticipation came to a joyful conclusion on June 12 when the Dena'ina Wellness Center celebrated its grand opening in Kenai, Alaska. The new state-of-the-art healthcare facility offers integrated health and wellness services, including medical, dental, behavioral health, chemical dependency, physical therapy, lab and X-ray and pharmacy services, all under one roof. Optometry and traditional healing services are planned for the future.

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe (KIT) invited the public to help mark the occasion with a three-day celebration featuring music, drummers, traditional foods, a blessing from Russian Orthodox Bishop David Mahaffey, special speakers and a cloth ceremony. On June 13, CIRI shareholder Joel Isaak unveiled an art installation he designed for the building site called "Łuq'a Nagh Ghilghuzht" (Fish Camp), a trio of bronze statues depicting a family gathering and processing fish.

Tours were given of the new 52,000-square-foot facility, which houses 15 exam rooms, four treatment and four consultation rooms, 13 talking rooms, 10 dental operation rooms, six classrooms and a demonstration kitchen that will be used to teach preparation of traditional and healthy foods. Signs throughout the building describe the use of each room, not only in English and Braille, but with Dena'ina translations as well.

After many years of hopeful planning, development of the Wellness Center got a boost when KIT received a highly competitive Indian Health Service (IHS) joint venture award in 2011. Additional funding came from the state and from CIRI and nonprofit organizations. In just two years, the building went from artist's renderings to reality.

Already, the Dena'ina Wellness Center is providing the Alaska Native and American Indian people of the Kenai Peninsula and surrounding communities with high quality, fully integrated healthcare that will be supported by the IHS award for a minimum of 20 years.

CIRI congratulates the Kenaitze Indian Tribe on the completion and opening of this vital new resource. 🗨️



➤ Dena'ina Wellness Center grand opening ceremony. Courtesy of Kenaitze Indian Tribe.

HIGHLIGHTS GRAND OPENING

- The Dena'ina Wellness Center celebrated its grand opening on June 12, 2014.
- The new state-of-the-art healthcare facility offers integrated health services for the people of the Kenai Peninsula and surrounding areas.
- Development of the center was made possible in part by an Indian Health Services award and funding from the state, CIRI and nonprofit organizations.

NATIVE LEADER PASSES AWAY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the ANCSA bill to Congress.

"Don was a visionary. He could see what was possible and knew what it took to make that happen," said Clare Swan, a former CIRI Director and current chair of Cook Inlet Tribal Council. "His testimony to Congress during the land claims legislation was incredible. It was always about what was best for the people. He was rather prophetic."

Despite Wright's declining health in recent years, he was able to attend a 40th anniversary event of the settlement act at the University of Alaska Anchorage three years ago. "It was an important chance to honor Wright's efforts," Hensley said.

In addition to helping to build the state and producing positive results, Mr. Wright enjoyed subsistence hunting and fishing, which supported his love for cooking. He is remembered as an impeccable host, welcoming family, friends and

strangers into his hand-built Alaskan log cabin on the Chena River.

Mr. Wright is survived by his brothers Alfred, Gareth (wife Miranda) and Jules Wright; former wife and mother of his children Carol Segura; his children Chuck Casper, Darlene Wright, Donald "Sonny" Wright (wife Rosa), George Wright, and Gareth Wright (wife Eileen), 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

A funeral and memorial will be held in Nenana, Alaska on July 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., followed by a traditional potlatch at 6 p.m. at the Chief Mitchell A. Demientieff Tribal Hall.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, friends of Donald Wright may make a donation to the following account: Alaska USA Federal Credit Union #1859452, payable to his granddaughter Kami Wright. 🗨️

the way. Family dinners, barbecues and birthday celebrations offered an opportunity for her to get to know Jerome and Mark.

She also made a special trip to the CIRI offices in Anchorage. “One of the very first things I wanted to do was add the twins to my CIRI stock will,” she explains. “That was important to me. And from the moment I walked into the CIRI offices, I felt at home and cared about.”

Though she lives in Colorado, “home” is Alaska – and now, Cynthia says, she has more reason than ever to return. “I made this trip specifically to reunite with my twins. For years, my family experienced a lot of loss, and that drove me away, but Alaska will always be home, no matter where I go. This is where my boys are. After so many years of loss, now I’m gaining family.”

HIGHLIGHTS CYNTHIA DAROSETT

- After 26 years, Cynthia Darosett was recently reunited with the twin sons she gave up for adoption.
- The twins, Jerome and Mark, located their biological mother by connecting with a cousin on Facebook.
- Today, Cynthia celebrates her newly reunited family, which now includes three grandchildren, with one granddaughter on the way.



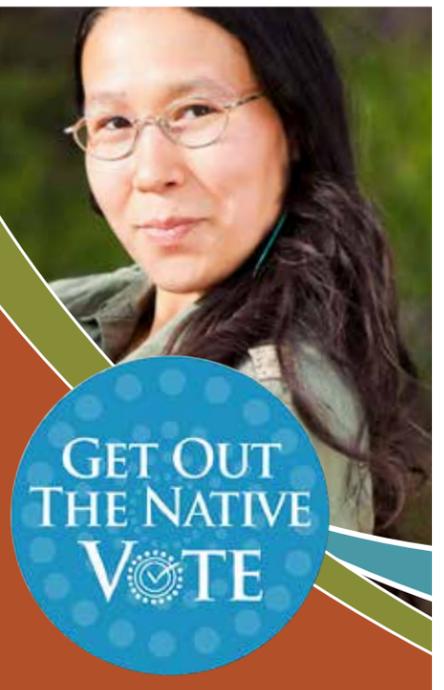
› Cynthia's five son's meet in Alaska. Courtesy of the Darosett family.

WHAT IF ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE ACROSS THE STATE VOTED IN EVERY ELECTION?

- Would rural Alaska still be fighting for education funding?
- Would our subsistence lifestyle continue to be threatened?
- Would the development of natural resources on Native-owned land be continually up for debate?

If you live in Alaska you can find more information, at <http://www.elections.alaska.gov/>.

YOUR LIFE DOES DEPEND ON IT. GET OUT THE NATIVE VOTE. Visit www.aknativevote.com for the latest news.



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Submit your stories & ideas to info@ciri.com

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Penny L. Carty, *Aleut*
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Hallie L. Bissett, *Athabascan*
Rolf A. Dagg, *Yup'ik*

Erik I. Frostad, *Athabascan*
Robert E. Harris, *Iñupiaq*
Katrina M. (Dolchok) Jacuk, *Aleut*
Ted S. Kroto Sr., *Athabascan*
Patrick Marrs, *Aleut*

TYONEK FIGHTS WILDFIRE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While Forum members like CIRI, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Eklutna, Inc., Southcentral Foundation, Salamatof Native Assoc. and Tyonek Native Corporation donated to the Tyonek Fire Fund, Donita Slawson, tribal administrator for the Native village of Tyonek, tackled the difficulties of fighting a fire off the road system. As fire crews nearly doubled the local population of the village, Slawson organized efforts to fly in food, gas, other vehicle fluids and supplies into the area.

By May 28, the fire was 100 percent contained. Soon after, firefighters launched a “mop up” effort and warned locals of potential hazards like ash pits and standing dead trees that might fall.

As the community recovers, village administrators are taking the opportunity to help residents prevent future fires.

“At this point, we are connecting with federal and state authorities to make Tyonek a more fire-wise community,” says Slawson. “We’re bringing in resources to remove foliage, vehicles and debris near homes, and also supplying homes with fire extinguishers and smoke detectors.”

Tyonek UNITED AGAINST THE WILD FIRES

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Tikahtnu Forum. Living in Tyonek, I witnessed the dedication of my people who worked alongside the firefighters; the ones who couldn't do all the physical work delivered water, chainsaws and fuel, and those who prepared food, including myself, with whatever we had in our homes, shared with the firefighters and tribal members who were working so hard to save our homes. All of us with lack of sleep, dusty and smoky – still everyone didn't stop. Everyone who helped us is in our prayers.

With deep appreciation,

Harriet Kaufman
Tyonek Village