



Central Council Tlingit and Haida

PRESS RELEASE

June 3, 2002

MARK JACOBS, JR.
THE FIRST EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER EMERITUS

Mark Jacobs, Jr.

Dakl'aweidi-Eagle-Killer Whale

The Executive Council of the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska voted unanimously to appoint Mark Jacobs, Jr. as the very first Executive Council Member Emeritus in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to the tribe as an Executive Council member and as a delegate, as well as the strong leadership characteristics that he brought to every meeting he attended. With the ratification of this action, Mark will have the right to serve in this capacity for life if he so chooses.

Born November 28, 1923 in Sitka, Alaska to Mr. & Mrs. Mark Jacobs, Sr. He attended a segregated school system for Natives in Sitka Village, and then attended the Sheldon Jackson High School, which was interrupted by Military service in the war, he returned to Sheldon Jackson High School and graduated.



Four years of Military service, nearly all of which was sea duty and in war zone, he served on the USS New Mexico (BB-40), USS Menard (APA 201), and the USS Newberry (APA 158) and the last two years served in the Amphibious Forces in the South Pacific. Along with the honorable discharge as a quartermaster, he was given credit for unused annual leave paid in a war bond, filling a little more than four years of service, landed combat troops in Tacloban, P.I., Guam, Saipan after beach heads were secure, initial landings with combat troops 5th 84th marines in Iwo Jima D-day February 19, 1945 (witnessed raising of the American flag on IWO and entered into ship log) and 2nd Marines in Southern Okinawa - D-day April 1, 1945 on Easter Sunday morning. Then the first occupation forces, Aomori, Japan with the famed Black Cat Division, U.S. Army.

During World War II Alaska Native Brotherhood, Camp #1 endowed all local Natives in service with the Military as members of Sitka ANB Camps #1 and ANS Camps #4. After discharge from the U.S. Navy Mark became active in the local ANB Camp and has held various offices including President of Sitka Camp #1.

An Active member of Tlingit & Haida Land Claims movement serving in as ANB Delegate in annual conventions and as a Tlingit & Haida Delegate from Sitka in a one-day donated by Grand Camps ANB/ANS to land claims deliberations. This was the result of a ruling through the Alaska Native Services name used at that time by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The ruling was, Alaska Native Brotherhood could not be sponsor of the Land Claims movement because ANB charged annual Dues and dues could not be charged of potential beneficiaries, besides not all ANB members would be considered beneficiaries.

Mark Jacobs Jr.

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Mark is completed his 16 terms on the Executive Committee. If elected once again he will complete more than thirty years (30 years) of faithful service, on the Executive Council (Committee as formerly called). He also serves on the Interim Board of Directors of Sealaska and 2 additional 3year terms on the Sealaska Board of Directors. He was also on the Interim Board of Directors of Sitka's Native Urban Corporation, Shee Atika, Inc. He opted out of running for the full Board of Shee Atika due to the workload involved; i.e. Tlingit & Haida Executive Committee and being a Sealaska Director at the time.

For many years he served as member of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). In civic affairs all of his involvements cannot be fully listed. He is now on his 3rd, 3-year term on the State Parks Advisory Board in Sitka. He served on the Southeast Alaska Native Subsistence Commission as Vice Chairman; Local Sitka Fish & Game Advisory Committee, also the first member representing Tlingit & Haida on the Rural Alaska Resources Association (RARA) dealing with the first State of Alaska & Sportsman's Fish & Game challenges to rural preference law mandated by ANILCA. He served two years as Director of Rural Development, a political appointment by Governor Hickel. For the City and Borough of Sitka served as Chairman of the Harbor Commission and also Chairman of the Historical, Archaeology Commission.

On the National level, was appointed as a member of Native American Veteran Advisory Commission (many of this Commissions), proposals became law when the Veterans Omnibus Bill was enacted.

He served 8 to 10 years as a Subsistence Representative on the Sitka Fish & Game Advisory Board and continues to be involved with Subsistence & Fisheries issues. He presented many Alaskan Native Issues, one of his many statements helped Senator Inouye's Draft Bill on Native American Graves Protection, Repatriation Act. Is knowledgeable on many issues and courageous in speaking out.

In the Alaska Federation of Native on the ANCSA, 1991 Amendment he was helped to bring about delay of the Act because of ill-wording in the Act.

A noted historian and fluent speaker of the Tlingit language and knowledge of Tlingit culture and political history, he actively participates in Tlingit potlatches, and has used Tlingit potlatch as an intact Probate-Laws-Of-Succession to beat State Probate Law to keep Clan Property in correct Clan ownership. He is the housemaster of Keet Hit (Killerwhale House) in Angoon and some of the clan's *at.óow*. His Tlingit names are Saa.aat' (Cold), *Keet wú* (White Killerwhale), *Oodéishk'aduneek* (Everyone Wants to Claim the Killerwhale) and *Gusteiheen* (Spray Behind the Dorsal Fin) and is the *Naashaadeiháni* (Clan Leader) of the Killerwhale Clan.

Aside, his many years as a fisherman with his father Mark Jacobs, Sr. on the F/V Rondout, Mark worked in construction for over 30 years - and was Union Steward for over 20 years and a professional driller/powderman - he retired from the Labor Union in 1985.

He and his wife Adelaide (Bartness) will be celebrating 53 years of marriage on June 14th; they had five children, survived by three, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

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