

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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(Juneau) Richard J. Stitt, Sr., was honored with the "President's Lifetime Achievement Award" presented by President Edward K. Thomas of the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. Family, friends, co-workers, tribal organizations and Native corporations joined in the celebration at the Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall on October 7, 2004.

Richard's Tlingit names are *Tsu neil* and *Náaw da sayk* and he is Eagle-Wolf from Klawock, Alaska. He is the Tribal Self Governance Coordinator, a director for Sealaska Corporation, a Klawock Heenya shareholder, a member of the Executive Committee of the Alaska Native Brotherhood Grand Camp, and a member of Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp #2.

As a life long advocate for the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and Alaska Native causes, he is acknowledged around the communities as a "man-of-the-people," celebrated for his integrity, problem solving skills and humor. He is also well known for playing guitar in the "Sargent-Stitt Band" at fundraising dances around Southeast Alaska.

The "President's Lifetime Achievement Award" is a rare honor and has only been awarded to Dr. Walter Soboleff in the 70-year history of the Tlingit and Haida Tribes. "It is truly inspiring to all of us to see a person dedicate his life to the service of our people without expecting notoriety for his tireless efforts."

Other presentations included a Marine Corps flag from the Southeast Alaska Native Veterans honoring him as a Marine Corps brother serving his country from 1950-1953 in the Korean War, and a resolution from the 92nd Alaska Native Brotherhood/Sisterhood Grand Camp Convention supporting the "President's Lifetime Achievement Award."

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