Community Teacher, Advocate, Elder, Dies at 82

Wednesday, 25 June 2014

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Iver Malutin, Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak Chairman, holds a plaque of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter SPAR during a dinner with the U.S. Coast Guard and Sun'aq Tribe members June 24, 2012 in Kodiak, Alaska. The Sun'aq Tribe made the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter SPAR a honorary ship of the tribe for it efforts in honoring the tribes members who lost their lives on Dec. 17, 1942, aboard the Kodiak mail boat Phyllis S. Photo by U.S. Army Tech. Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Brianna Gibbs/KMXT

A Kodiak elder and long time community leader passed away Wednesday. Iver Malutin died at 8:15 a.m. in Anchorage, where he had been hospitalized following a valve replacement operation for his heart earlier this month. His daughter, Christie Malutin, said his death didn’t seem to be a complication of the surgery, but rather due to natural causes and old age.

Iver Malutin was born in Kodiak on June 30, 1931. He would have turned 83 next Monday.

Malutin spent much of his life advocating for community issues, both on a local and statewide scale. As such, Malutin was a frequent voice on KMXT, be it in a news story related to a topic he was passionate about or on the station’s public affairs program, Talk of the Rock.

During one of his most recent visits to KMXT, Malutin shared his memories from March 27, 1964 – when the Good Friday Earthquake and Tsunami hit Kodiak.

“Good afternoon and my name is Iver Malutin and I was born and raised in Kodiak. I was born in 1931. And I’ve been here all my life, so this is really my town.”

April Laktonen Counceller said she and Malutin have family ties and always considered him a cousin. She said his death is one that will be felt beyond her own family and by many in the community.

“I’ve pretty much known him all my life and his personality was so big and he always had a good story to share and people would actually laugh, ‘oh that Iver, he always has something to say.’ But I think people are going to feel like it’s a bit quiet around town without him calling into the radio or sharing stories at Dig Afognak or coming to my class here at Kodiak College to teach students about subsistence. He was just everywhere and so active in our community that it’s going to leave a big hole.”

Malutin’s daughter said there will be a memorial for him in Anchorage at 11 a.m. Friday at St. Innocent's

Cathedral on Turpin Road. Malutin’s funeral will be held at the Russian Orthodox Church in Kodiak at 1 p.m. on Saturday with the burial immediately after. Following that there will be a repast at the Afognak Building on Near Island.