Woodruff Remembered as Community-Minded Leader

Tuesday, 21 April 2009

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Erik Wander/KMXT

A memorial service was held Monday afternoon for a long-time and highly respected member of the Kodiak community. Hundreds of people packed the Gerald C. Wilson Auditorium to bid final farewell to Dave Woodruff, who passed away at the age of 67 on April 6th, after a bout with cancer.

Woodruff first came to Kodiak in 1978 and co-founded Alaska Fresh Seafoods, which he continued to operate until his death. During his years in Kodiak, he served on committees including the Kodiak Shellfish Study Group, the Kodiak Seafood Processors Association, Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Advisory Panel. He also served several terms on the Kodiak City Council for a total of 14 years.

After an introduction by Jeff Stephan, who described Woodruff as a hardworking, focused, but fun-loving guy, who always had to keep busy, City Mayor Carolyn Floyd issued a proclamation honoring Woodruff for his years of service to the Kodiak community. Woodruff's wife of the past seven years, Barbara, then spoke.

-- (Woodruff 1 27 sec. "He once said to me ... absolutely astounding to me.")

Friends, family and colleagues in attendance at the service were invited to share their memories or pay tribute to a man so many people had come to love and respect. Long-time friend and business partner John Hall was the first to speak.

-- (Woodruff 2 18 sec. "Always good cheer ... how tough he was.")

Bob Lochman, who first met Woodruff in Dutch Harbor in 1966, and whose

wife, Roberta, worked as Woodruff's office manager, said he became especially close when Woodruff's first wife Cindy passed away. The two later became partners in a small fishing vessel. Lochman is grateful for the support Woodruff provided his family when he had to be away.

-- (Woodruff 3 23 sec. "There was a period of ... all those kind of things.")

Jeremiah Myers of the Lions Club said he first met Woodruff, who was also a Lion, in 1982. Myers said Woodruff received the organization's highest honor, the Melvin Jones Award, eight years ago.

-- (Woodruff 4 23 sec. "We save that award ... and we'll miss him.")

Joe Floyd first met Woodruff in the late 1960s, when he was starting his now annual Christmas tournament. The two have remained friends ever since.

-- (Woodruff 5 37 sec. "Making things go in Kodiak ... one of those giants.")

The service ended with a standing ovation for Woodruff as images of his life in Kodiak were shown on the auditorium's video screen. The service was followed by a reception in the Kodiak High School commons. Woodruff is survived by his wife, son, daughter, step-daughter, two brothers, two grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. I'm Erik Wander.

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