

THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE



In Memoriam

*** WALTER L. KUBLEY SR. ***

The Twenty-seventh Alaska State Legislature joins the family and friends of Walter L. Kubley Sr. in celebrating his life and honoring his memory and dedication to Alaska.

Wally was born in Ketchikan in 1921 and spent his life working for the betterment of his family, his community, and his state. The patriarch of a sixth generation Ketchikan family, Wally left the legacy of a diverse and distinguished career as a successful businessman and public servant.

As a young man enrolled in Whitman College, Wally withdrew to join the U.S. Coast Guard on December 8, 1941 - the day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He served as the captain of a submarine chaser out of Prince Rupert on the lookout for Japanese submarines in the waters of Southeast Alaska. After the war, Wally returned to Ketchikan and married the love of his life, Fern, who was Mrs. Alaska in 1962, and spent 60 wonderful years of marriage with Wally. Together, Wally and Fern built the world famous Sourdough Bar now run by his son Larry and grandson Wally. He also built the first bowling alley in Ketchikan, Billiken Bowl, and the Sportsman Bar and Restaurant in Wards Cove.

Wally's impressive career in public service spanned four years on the Ketchikan City Council; ten years in the Ketchikan Volunteer Fire Department.; two terms in the Alaska State Legislature representing House District 1; a chief adviser and legislative liaison to Governor Hickel; commissioner of the Department of Commerce for Governor Keith Miller; a commissioner on the Alaska Transportation Commission; and the Alaskan Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. At the end of his political career, Wally was proud to spend many years in Juneau lobbying with his son Don on issues important to Southeast Alaska. He was a lifelong member of the Elks, the Royal Order of the Moose, the American Legion, the VFW, and the NRA.

Wally left an indelible mark on the socioeconomic fabric of Southeast Alaska as one of the authors and fathers of the legislation that created the Alaska Marine Highway System. While serving as the commissioner of Commerce for Governor Miller, Wally, along with his good friend Commissioner of Revenue George Morrison, lead the team that invested \$900 million in revenue generated from the first oil lease sale in Prudhoe Bay. This became the seed money that evolved into the Permanent Fund from which all Alaskans continue to benefit.

The Twenty-seventh Alaska State Legislature honors Representative Walter L. Kubley Sr. with this memoriam and expresses their deepest condolences to the Kubley family. Alaska has lost a noble leader, tireless public servant, dedicated family man and good friend. He will be missed.

MIKE CHENAULT
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bert Stedman".

SEN. BERT STEDMAN
PRIME SPONSOR

Date:

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

REP. KYLE JOHANSEN
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