

REMEMBERING POLDINE CARLO

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, when Alaska Native youth gather with Alaska Native elders, they often talk about the difficulties of “living in two worlds”: the modern world driven by careers, technology, busy all the time; and the traditional Alaska Native world: beadwork, subsistence, preparing traditional foods, carrying on Native languages, teaching your children stories handed down across the generations that explain the relationship between humans and other living beings, native dance and ceremonies. The elders explained that it is possible for Native youth to live in the modern world while staying true to who you are. It is said that the modern world gives you wings, but the traditional world gives you roots. The answer to the challenge of the modern world is to always be mindful of your roots.

In each of the regions of Alaska, there are very special elders who are highly regarded as mentors and guides for the youth. Some are traditional chiefs of their tribes or regions, others Native people who are well known for their wisdom and their integrity.

Among the Athabascan peoples of interior Alaska, two names stand out: Hannah Solomon and Poldine Carlo. Among Native people when one spoke of Hannah and Poldine, everyone knew who you were talking about, no need to use last names. When they spoke at Native gatherings, others stopped what they were doing and listened. Both spoke with eloquence and passion. Neither held back.

Hannah Solomon passed away at the age of 102 on September 21, 2011. Poldine Carlo left us on May 9, 2018, at the age of 97. She was buried in the Athabascan village of Nulato this week. Both of these women were regarded as matriarchs and culture bearers. Both will long be remembered for their loving kindness to their Native people and especially to the youth. Both were in a league of their own, so to speak.

I would like to take a few moments to share Poldine's story with my Senate colleagues and to pay tribute to this remarkable woman.

Poldine was born December 5, 1920, in Nulato, a traditional community on the Yukon River. She was raised by Joseph and Anna Stickman, her grandparents. She credited her grandmother with instilling the traditional Athabascan ways of life in Poldine. She met her husband, Bill, in Tanana, at the confluence of the Tanana and Yukon Rivers, the place where the rivers meet. Poldine married Bill in 1940, and they raised their eight children along the Yukon River in the traditional ways. Poldine and her husband Bill also operated a mine outside of Rampart in the summers for 20 years. Poldine's sons and husband operated the mine, while she did the cooking and fishing. It was a true family operation.

In 1957, Bill and Poldine relocated in Fairbanks so that their children could

attend high school without leaving home. In those days, Native children in the village were sent off to boarding school for high school. Even though they had a full house with eight children, there was always room for more. They took in many village children so that they too could benefit from educational opportunities in Fairbanks.

Their home became a gathering place for the Fairbanks Native community. From those gatherings came the decision to create the Fairbanks Native Association, which has grown and grown over the years. Life was not so easy for Native people in Fairbanks in the early 1960s. Poldine was committed to justice for her Native people. The Fairbanks Native Association administers many important wellness programs, but first and foremost, it ensures that Native people are treated fairly.

She was active in the Tanana Chiefs Conference and in the regional Native Corporation, Doyon. Poldine's son Wally today serves as chairman of the board of directors of Doyon. Poldine shared her wisdom in many ways. She was an elder in residence at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She authored the book, “Nulato: an Indian life on the Yukon.” Her beadwork was breathtaking. People loved her singing. Eagle Island Blues was a song people loved to hear her sing, but Blueberry Hill was her and Bill's song. She sang about Denali in Athabascan to greet President Obama when he traveled to Alaska. She composed songs for her husband, daughter, and son when they passed away.

Poldine humbly accepted many awards during her lifetime of service to Alaska and the Native community. She was awarded an honorary doctor of law degree by the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Hannah Solomon “Woman of Courage” award from the Alaska Federation of Natives. She was a Girl Scouts Woman of Distinction, a Golden Citizen Chieftain, and a Howard Rock Alaska Native Leader. She was recently inducted into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame, joining her friend and contemporary Hannah Solomon.

Poldine's son Wally was kind enough to share some of his mother's final words with me, knowing that they would be part of her tribute. Poldine told Wally that she lived a full life and loved everyone. She offered a few words of advice: “You need to be happy. All that matters is how you raise your family and to be happy.”

Yes, Poldine was proudest of family, and she had much to be proud of, those children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren who are making their own contributions to our Native people and our State in her image, like Dr. Nikoosh Carlo, who is one of the Nation's most influential figures on Arctic science and policy. Poldine asked that her survivors and friends in the community “carry on,” and I have no doubt that they will.

On behalf of my Senate colleagues, I extend my condolences to Poldine's exceptional family, her huge extended family, and the Native people of interior Alaska who took inspiration from her example. A traditional woman, a community leader, writer, artist, singer, we shall all miss Poldine Carlo. She connected us to our roots and encouraged our wings.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Cuccia, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13303 OF MAY 22, 2003, WITH RESPECT TO THE STABILIZATION OF IRAQ, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON MAY 18, 2018—PM 40

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2018.

Obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I