



April 13, 2020

PRESS RELEASE: Fairbanks Native Association mourns the passing of Mary Jane Fate

FNA Contact: Steve Ginnis, Executive Director, 907-452-1648

Fairbanks, Alaska – It is with great sadness that Fairbanks Native Association notes the passing of Mary Jane Fate.

Fate, known all her life for her activism for Alaska Natives, was part of the group of people who helped give FNA a firm start in 1963. She served on the board and worked on the education committee in those early days, later serving as president of the organization.

“She and her husband Bud were very much a part of the 1960s Alaska Native civil rights movement, and were so from the beginning,” said Steve Ginnis, FNA executive director. “Mary Jane’s early work with FNA was on the education committee. In those days, good educational opportunities for young Alaska Natives were hard to come by. She fought hard for better educational access for our people for most of her life.

“Today, our education programs are thriving, and thousands of young learners have passed through to become important contributors for the good of Alaska.”

Ginnis sends his condolences to her husband Bud Fate, who worked with Mary Jane on Alaska Native issues, and their three daughters, grandchildren and family.

“She was so dedicated to our people, “ Ginnis said. “What she and those others did in the 1960s was miraculous and we likely won’t see something like it again. All we can do is live up to the example she left for us and remember her in our hearts.”

###