

In Loving Memory of Albert Doctor (ABOO)

February 10, 1965 – January 3, 2007

Albert passed away suddenly January 3, 2007 in a plane crash enroute from Yellowknife, NWT to Blachford Lake Lodge where he was to start up the camp for the winter tourist season.

Albert Doctor was born on February 10, 1965 in Yellowknife to Gabriel and Marie-Adele Doctor. He, along with his twelve brothers and sisters, were raised in the bush at Enodah (Trout Rock). When not at Enodah or in N'dilo, the Doctor family spent time hunting, fishing, and trapping at Benaya Lake and in the Barrenlands.

Albert, known as Aboo to his family and friends, was a man with many skills that let him work in the modern world and still maintain the traditional Dene cultural practices. Albert was an all-around "bush man"; He was skilled at hunting, fishing, trapping, guiding, with a canoe or dog team. Albert learned how to make traditional Dene hand drums and rattles from his father, Gabriel. Albert loved making these drums and rattles at the family cabin on the highway outside of Yellowknife.

Albert worked at Blachford Lake Lodge for over 16 years and helped in the construction of the Lodge. Albert was an essential part of the operations at Blachford Lake Lodge. In addition to his many carpentry or construction projects at the Lodge, Albert provided guiding, fishing and cultural experiences to the many tourists that came to the Lodge from around the world. Albert was the first to ever provide these cultural programs at Blachford and was a regular fixture around the campfire telling Dene stories, demonstrating and getting people involved in hand games, making hand drums and drying fish.

Albert was a skilled carpenter and when not working at Blachford Lake Lodge he worked in Yellowknife with numerous contractors. Besides doing carpentry and construction, Albert worked as a firefighter, a staker during the diamond exploration rush, and a guide at Great Bear Lake Lodge. He also worked for the past several years on the flooding/construction of the Tibbet-Contwoyto Lake winter ice road.

Albert was proud to be a Yellowknives Dene First Nation member. He helped design the Yellowknives Dene First Nation flag and in 2001 was chosen to canoe from Yellowknife/N'dilo to Fort Resolution for the One Hundred Year Centenary Celebration of the Signing of Treaty Eight.

Albert was engaged to be married to Michiko Nishimura.

Albert was truly a great guy and will be dearly missed by his family and so many friends and co-workers.

Many, many thanks go to the:

Relatives and friends who brought food to the home of the Doctor family in N'dilo.

For food preparation at the reception in N'dilo gym, many thanks to Doreen Westrom, Bertha Collins, Adeline Mackenzie, Nora Mackenzie, Eileen Betsina, Muriel Betsina, Lucy Staple, the N'dilo Kalemi School, Health and Social program, Wha Ti community for donating caribou meat and the Vital Abel Boarding Home.

Mike Freeland and Tessa MacIntosh and all Blachford Lake Lodge staff for their help during the past week.

Franki Sangris, Kelvin Sangris, Frank Jr. Betsina, John Doctor and Peter Mitchell for helping to make the cross.

Arctic Sunwest for reception food, supplies and donations.

Denedeh Development Corporation for donation.

De Beers for reception food, supplies and donations.

Yellowknives Dene First Nation for airfares, food and supplies for reception.

Erin Freeland, Michael Nardone and Stephan Goodman for slide show presentation for N'dilo gym.

Canadian North Airlines for airfares for family of Albert.

Stanton YK Hospital and Staff for providing excellent support and help.

Lutsel K'e people who provided support and help.

Diane Betsina for transportation and donation collection and shopping for food for the reception.

Mary Jane Francois for sewing the moccasins for Albert which was very much appreciated by the Doctor brothers and family.

Relatives from Behchoko for family comforting and helping with the family in N'dilo.

Thank you to Father Joe Daley, Melody McLeod, George Tuccaro, and John Tees for all their help with the church service.

Thanks to Bill Skentos for helping with the funeral arrangements and helping the family.

And in conclusion, Noel and his family from N'dilo would like to thank all the community members of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation who have offered condolences and prayers in our time of grief. It is very much appreciated.

