



Alaska Federation of Natives
2013 Annual Convention
Resolution 13-1

- TITLE:** HONORING KATIE JOHN & NAMING MAY 31 AS “KATIE JOHN DAY”
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Katie John, a respected and cherished Ahtna Elder, passed away on Friday, May 31, 2013; and
- WHEREAS:** Katie John was the champion, the leader, and the lead plaintiff in a long and tenuous legal battle addressing Native subsistence fishing rights; and
- WHEREAS:** the lawsuit endured by Katie John was filed after the State of Alaska refused her and Doris Charles, access to a long-abandoned fish camp in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve; and
- WHEREAS:** Katie John fought not only to maintain her family’s fish camp, but to pass her traditional way of life and practices to her children and grandchildren; and
- WHEREAS:** Katie John endured a decade long battle through the state and federal court systems, fighting for the subsistence hunting and fishing rights of all Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** her fight culminated in a 2001 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling stating that the subsistence fisheries protections provided under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) did in fact extend to all navigable waters in which the federal government owned reserved water rights, effectively allowing subsistence fishing to continue unrestricted in those areas; and
- WHEREAS:** without her persistence and unwillingness to concede, Alaska Natives as a whole would not be able to practice and enjoy traditional lifestyles, passing the ways of Native people on to the next generations, and ensuring traditional culture and heritage practices are never forgotten; and

WHEREAS: in recognition of her fighter spirit and courageous battle, the University of Alaska Fairbanks decreed Katie John with an honorary doctorate of law degree during the 2011 spring commencement ceremony, to be forever revered as Dr. Katie John.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. honors Katie John for her lifetime of accomplishments and her contributions to Alaska Native peoples

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests the State of Alaska to declare May 31 Katie John Day as this is the day the State of Alaska allows Alaska Native people to put their fishwheels in the water.

SUBMITTED BY:	ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE ACTION:	DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASS

