

# June 2015

## **CIRCAC scholarship honors dynamic first president**

This spring, CIRCAC initiated its first scholarship program to support Cook Inlet students pursuing careers in either environmental or maritime studies. One of those scholarships is named after CIRCAC's first president, the late James Carter Sr., not only to recognize Jim's commitment and tenure with the organization, but because of his belief in and passion for learning. According to his widow, Sue Carter, nothing was more important to Jim than education.

James Carter never got around to college. Instead, he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard out of high school at the age of 15 and served in World War II. In 1946, Jim was recruited by the Civil Aeronautics Administration (later known as the FAA) and moved to Alaska to work in flight service from 1946-53, air traffic control from 1953-63, chief of military liaison to Alaska Command/NORAD from 1963-71, chief of plans, programs and evaluations from 1971-73 and chief of air space procedures from 1973-78 before taking early retirement and moving to Kenai in 1978.

According to Mrs. Carter, Jim was passionate that his children--three daughters and one son--get a good education and was very proud when two of them went on to get masters degrees.

Jim's focus was always on the future. He saw everything as a project, Sue said. Jim was driven by, and enthusiastic to tackle, the next big one. Following his early retirement, Jim continued to devote his considerable energies to working for his community, including for the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska Public Utilities Commission, Kenai Chamber of Commerce and CIRCAC, where he served as first president and later as executive director (1998-2002). With the energetic support of Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Don Gilman and then-Senator Frank Murkowski's successful efforts to create the citizens advisory councils through legislation, Jim worked tirelessly on driving the newly-organized RCAC forward.

### **CIRCAC**

8195 Kenai Spur Highway  
Kenai, Alaska 99611  
[www.circac.org](http://www.circac.org)

Phone: 907-283-7222  
Fax: 907-283-6102  
Email: [circac@circac.org](mailto:circac@circac.org)



Sue described her late husband as someone who lived life to the fullest, had that Alaska attitude where you don't give up and are committed to the future well-being of Alaska and its people. So it is fitting that James Carter's name is attached to a scholarship whose goal is to invest in the next generation of Alaskans that could very well represent the future of Cook Inlet.

CIRCAC is offering two scholarships each year. In addition to the *James Carter Memorial Scholarship* for environmental studies, students can apply for the *Captain Barry Eldridge Memorial Scholarship* for maritime studies. In April, CIRCAC was pleased to award our first two scholarships for environmental studies to Annie Looman, a graduating high school senior from Kodiak who plans on attending UAF to major in biology, and Kristina Benson from Anchorage, a second year geology student at UAA.

For more information about the CIRCAC scholarship program and to meet this year's winners, click [here](#).



James Carter (far right) celebrates CIRCAC's 1991 certification with (from left to right) Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Don Gilman, Bill Stillings (CISPRI), US Senator Frank Murkowski, John Beitia (Unocal) and Joe Sautner (ADEC).