

Official Proclamation

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WHEREAS the greatest asset of our community is its people, whose heritage reflects the diversity of the ethnic and cultural groups which have made significant contributions throughout our history; and

WHEREAS individuals like Dr. Delores Ilskyalas Churchill continues in her mother Selina Peratrovich's legacy as a teacher, teaching Haida, Tlingit, Chilkat, and Tsimshian forms of weaving. Using materials as spruce root, cedar bark, wool and natural dyes, she creates baskets, hats, robes and other regalia; and

WHEREAS as one of the last remaining speakers of the Xaad Kil- Haida Language, she continues to fight to share and save her linguistic heritage. She has remained adamant in her desire to preserve her native language and frequently works with students, by sharing stories and the meaning of those stories; and

WHEREAS she stayed strong, persevered and continued to speak cultivate and nurture her native language and arts at a time when colonization would see it extinguished from existence, and she worked tirelessly to connect us to our past, teaching multiple generations, families and communities so that we may find the gift of connection, peace and joy of the people of this land; and

WHEREAS she was appointed to the Governor's Alaska Language Preservation and Advisory Council, receiving an honorary doctorate from the University of Alaska Southeast, and was honored by the Alaska Legislature for her journey and her contribution to the full length Xaad Kil Movie SgWaay K'uuna known as the "Edge of the Knife" where she played a short scene in the film which went on to win awards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Robert Sivertsen, Mayor of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska, do hereby proclaim from this day forward as

October 23, 2020 as Dr. Delores Ilskyalas Churchill Day

and encourage all residents to recognize the great contribution Dr. Churchill has made to our community and the world that stretches far and wide. We as the City of Ketchikan acknowledge her un-waivered perseverance, commitment and life's contribution to the arts and language of Alaska and Canada's first people, and to all of those throughout the world whom she has touched the hearts of.

Signed this 19th day of November, 2020

Robert Sivertsen, Mayor

City of Ketchikan, Alaska