

William F. Smith, a son, father, and grandfather. He was born in Cordova, Alaska September of 1952, to Chief Marie Smith-Jones, the last full blooded speaker of the Eyak language and a fisherman. When Bill was 17, he went into the Army as a heavy duty mechanic and a recovery specialist. Shortly after going into the service he went on his first tour to Augsburg, Germany with the 1/36 field artillery, after returning his next tour was in Long Binh Vietnam from 1971 to 1972. Returning to the states he was transferred to Fort Huachuca Arizona where he was then again shipped overseas to Germany with the 5/68 armor tank outfit. When Bill retired from the service in August of 1977, he then moved to Valdez, Alaska to work on boats. In 1981 he stopped working on boats and started working for Alyeska Pipeline Service Company in the Marine Department. After 36 years in 2017 he retired from Alyeska and is still enjoying his retirement by hunting, fishing and spending time with his loving family. He is a member of the Valdez Native Tribe. He also sits on the board of the Alaska Native Health Board and is the Acting Chairman of the National Indian Health Board, helping as many Alaskan Native and American Indians as possible. Bill is one of the local Tribal Veterans Representatives working for his brothers and sisters with their veteran issues.