



Women of Annie Alowa's family celebrating her induction into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame. Front row: Jackie (Alowa) Wilson, Vi Waghiyi, Tina Alowa, and Jennie Alowa. Back row: Umara Buchea, Linda Wiseman, and June Martin.

Did you know?

**Annie Alowa was inducted into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame on March 3**



Annie Alowa was born on St. Lawrence Island in 1925. She was a traditional healer, midwife, village health aide, and master artist.

For two decades, Annie led a one-woman crusade to hold the military accountable for the contamination it left behind when it abandoned its Cold War facilities at Northeast Cape in 1972, including 30,000 barrels of hazardous chemicals abandoned to rust on the surface or plowed under.

Cancer, miscarriages, and low birth-weight babies among residents who lived, worked, and harvested food at Northeast Cape alarmed Annie.

She started talking to every government official she could, to no avail. Finally, Annie met Pam Miller in 1997 and asked for her help. Together, Annie and Pam persuaded the military to prioritize cleanup of Northeast Cape – and founded Alaska Community Action on Toxics.

Sadly, Annie died of cancer in 1999, but her spirit lives on in the many people, both Native and non-Native whom she has inspired to follow in her footsteps and carry on her work.

*The 2016 Induction Ceremony was held March 3 at the Anchorage Museum. More than a dozen of Annie's friends and relatives from across the state attended.*

Photo: Saunders McNeill