



## *Tribal Host*

# **William E. Martin - Xaawusteen**

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William Martin, Xaawusteen, was born July 2, 1943 in Petersburg, Alaska and is the son of the late Robert and Stella Martin. His maternal grandparents are the late Annie and Charles Skon Johnson of Kake and his paternal grandparents are the late William and Matilda Martin of Juneau. He grew up in Kake and attended Juneau-Douglas High School in Juneau, graduating in 1961. He is Tlingit of the Tsaagweidi clan (Eagle/Killerwhale) and Kaagwaantaan yadi.

William worked as a Programmer for MVS mainframe systems (1986-2003) and Customer Service Representative for hardware systems at IBM (1965-1986) in the San Francisco area. Upon

returning to Alaska in 2003, he worked as the Operations Manager for Tlingit Haida Technology Industries until his retirement in 2005.

William was actively involved in the government of Tlingit & Haida. He served as a Delegate, Vice President of Tlingit & Haida (1996-2004), and President of the Juneau and San Francisco Tlingit & Haida Community Councils.

William served as the President of Tlingit & Haida from 2007-2010. During his term, he built on the Tribe's strengths and capabilities. He retained a deep commitment to customer service, efficient service delivery, and a highly professional approach to how the Tribe conducts its business.

Recognizing that too many of our Native youth were not successfully graduating from high school, he advocated for academic and institutional reform to better prepare students for their educational and career goals. Throughout his public service, he was also actively involved in finding ways to reduce suicide among tribal youth and served as Chair of the Alaska State Suicide Prevention Council.

Supporting all efforts that would lead to greater employment opportunities for tribal citizens, he increased training opportunities through the Tribe's Vocational Training & Resource Center. In partnership with Coeur Alaska, he helped many tribal citizens secure training and employment with Kensington Mine.

He also served as President of the Inter-Tribal Monitoring Association and Alaska Area Vice President for the National Congress of American Indians.

William and his late wife Lorraine have four children (Bill Jr., Teri, Matthew, and Elizabeth) and nine grandchildren.

