



President's Everyday Hero Award
Inspiring Educator

too'yeeek, yanis'kit, Waak'nas
Jonathan Rowan Jr.

Jonathan was raised in Klawock and is the son of Jonathan Rowan Sr. and the late Ruth Rowan of Tlingit and Pueblo descent. His Tlingit names are *too'yeeek, yanis'kit* and *Waak'nas*. He is eagle/wolf *Shank'weidi*. On his pueblo side, he is a road runner and was also adopted into the Scottish clan McDonald. Jon

graduated from Klawock High School in 1981 and soon after joined the U.S. Marine Corps where he served four years and was honorably discharged. Jon and his wife Patricia Armour have two children, Cecelia and Eva.

Jon learned to carve from his father (first mentor), received encouragement from his elementary teacher Skip Fabry, and apprenticed under the late Stan Marsden (master carver), Nathan Jackson, and Israel Shotridge. While working as a custodian for Klawock School, Jon was given the idea to teach carving to struggling students which he quickly embraced. The class was so successful, the Klawock School administration with the support of the board, offered him a full-time position as Native Arts Instructor. Since then, students have carved two house posts, a large plaque, and model canoe which are all on display in the school. Jon and a select group of students carved a 30 foot totem pole for Wooden Boats in Seattle for gifting a full size canoe. He and his apprentice carvers have also restored 21 totem poles in Klawock Totem Park.

Jon continues his work as Native Arts Instructor for grades K-12 in Klawock where he not only teaches basic design, wood carving, metal carving, oral history, beading, and language; he teaches pride in workmanship, tradition, and cultural history. Jon has also carved and donated many objects that have been sent across the world, he has served as the *Heinyaa Khwaan* dance group leader since 1999, and is also a founding member of the Southeast Arts Festival.