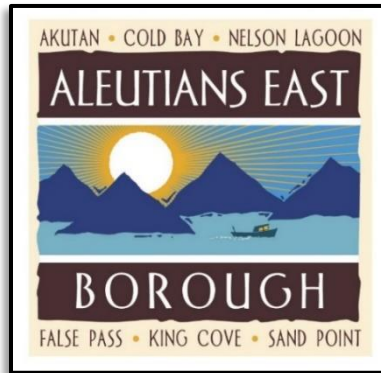


# In the Loop



---

## **Erika Tritremmel:**

**May 28, 1943 - September 18, 2020**

*By Sharon Boyette and Zenia Borenin*

Erika Tritremmel's friends across the Aleutians were saddened to learn that she passed away last August of natural causes. Erika was the Akutan City Administrator from 1983 to 2008, earning her the suspected but unofficial title at the time of her retirement of the Longest-Tenured Alaskan City Manager.

During those many years working for the City, she was responsible for - or at least laid the groundwork for - many of the capital projects that Akutan has seen over the years. Her close friend, Zenia Borenin, listed some of her accomplishments: a daycare, larger school w/gym, multi-purpose building, larger clinic and improved health care, a cafe, a bingo hall, ball field, and new housing. She helped construct the seaplane ramp, bulk storage, teacher housing, public dock, warehouse facility, boardwalks, and especially important, the new hydro system, which lowers community utility costs. Erika always had the City's best interest at heart and helped enormously

with the community's growth. She cared deeply for the City of Akutan and the well-being of its residents.

But it is not the job that her many friends and colleagues remember but her passion for the community of Akutan and its people. Erika was known for her generosity and kindness to everyone but especially with Akutan residents. She provided frequent airport taxi service in Anchorage for visitors. Once when she returned from a visit to Akutan, she headed out after work with her own checkbook to buy a new mattress. It wasn't for her but for an elderly couple whom she had visited during her stay. She was asked how she was going to get it to Akutan and answered, "I don't know, but it has to be done, and I'll figure it out." Nothing would get in the way of that mission.

Akutan was Erika's home away from home. She and her (unofficially) adopted daughter, Rita Aleck, looked forward to traveling to and from Akutan each summer on the Tustumena. They would go out one month and return the next with great stories, a huge respect for the Akutan lifestyle, and renewed energy to make the community even better.



Erika Tritremmel served as the Administrator for the City of Akutan from 1983 to 2008. Photo courtesy: Zenia Borenin.

Erika was born in Germany and immigrated to New York City as a young teenager. She received her education in Seattle and later established residency in the United States. After hearing stories about Alaska, she moved here and was hired by the University of Alaska Anchorage, Arctic Environmental Information Data Center. Erika later went to work for the North Slope handling corporate land selections. After that, she joined Rural CAP for three years where she developed and ran a fuel loan program. Erika traveled extensively throughout Alaska during that time (120 communities). She was welcomed into every community and into many homes; always treated with kindness and respect. She returned that hospitality when any one of her Alaska friends visited Anchorage. Her door was always open. She was hired as the administrator for the City of Akutan in 1983 where she had developed many friendships during her long tenure.

Erika got a big laugh in the Anchorage office when she admitted with a grin that she didn't have lots of German friends because she claimed they were "difficult." She was very proud of being an Alaskan and a naturalized U.S. citizen. She displayed her pride after retirement by volunteering at the Anchorage elections office.

Erika passed away on Sept. 18, 2020 in Anchorage. She was 77 years old. She leaves behind her siblings: Sonja Murphy, Buldur Tritremmel and Herbert Tritremmel, as well as Rita Aleck, who she helped raise. She is sorely missed, especially in Akutan. Our belated condolences go out to her family and to the many, many friends who loved her. She will always remain in our hearts.

## *Introduction to* **NAUTICAL SKILLS**



### **Calling all Region Residents and Tribal Members!**

**Ready to begin your voyage into a high paying and adventurous maritime career?**

This **5 day in-person course** is the starting point for student entry into the AVTEC Young Mariner Training Program. Many students who have completed the high school Nautical Skills course have become **fully licensed merchant mariners** completely debt free! The course is delivered by a USCG Licensed Maritime Training Instructor. Topics include maritime career awareness; chart navigation; safety of life at sea; time, speed, and distance problems; nautical courtesy; basic rules of the road; and knot tying. Eligible Tribal members who complete the Nautical Skills course may be eligible to receive tuition and room and board funds to assist them with participation in a wide range of maritime training at AVTEC. Funding opportunities available to eligible Tribal members.



**What are you waiting for?**

**Climb Aboard!**

#### **When:**

The week of September 13, 2021

#### **Where:**

The Grand Aleutian Hotel in Unalaska

#### **Registration Deadline:**

August 15, 2021

**Space is VERY limited!**

**Tuition is FREE for eligible Tribal members and APIA can assist with travel, lodging and meals during the training period.**

Contact Cheyanne Smallwood at [cheyannes@apiai.org](mailto:cheyannes@apiai.org) or call Kimber Olson at 907-222-9732 for a short application and more information.



---

## SEEKING LOCAL GARDENERS AND FARMERS!



Are you interested in helping build a local growers support network in your community? APIA is looking for gardeners/farmers to share their knowledge and experience growing food in the region so others can too

Videos will highlight:

- Gardening techniques
- Suitable seed varieties
- Tips for extending the growing season
- Pest/disease management
- anything else you want to share!

Videos will be compiled into a series and aired on Heidi Rader's YouTube channel *In the Alaska Garden*. [Here](#) is the link to her YouTube channel

To learn more, contact Mikayla Clarke at [mikaylac@apiai.org](mailto:mikaylac@apiai.org) or 603-366-8814

Link to YouTube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?app=desktop&list=PLaq6r5nsLDdfGTX5DsZEEdg90iJCo\\_z5a](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?app=desktop&list=PLaq6r5nsLDdfGTX5DsZEEdg90iJCo_z5a)



---

If you'd like to subscribe, please email [ltanis@aeboro.org](mailto:ltanis@aeboro.org) .



*Thank you for reading In the Loop. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe, please send an email to [ltanis@aeboro.org](mailto:ltanis@aeboro.org). For more information about our communities, our people, and our fisheries, please visit us at [www.aleutianseast.org](http://www.aleutianseast.org) and [www.aebfish.org](http://www.aebfish.org). For the latest news, find us on Facebook:*

[\*Link to AEB's Facebook page\*](#)

[\*Link to King Cove's Facebook page\*](#)

[\*Link to Cold Bay's Facebook page\*](#)

[\*Link to Sand Point's Facebook page\*](#)

[\*Link to Akutan's Facebook page\*](#)

