



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Resolution 01-14

WHEREAS William L. Paul, Sr., who was born on May 7, 1885 at Tongass Village and who was named *Shquindy*, was Raven of the Teeyhitta Clan, and

WHEREAS William L. Paul, Sr., returned home to Alaska after attending the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, earning a baccalaureate from Whitworth College and obtaining a law degree through La Salle University, and

WHEREAS William L. Paul, Sr. helped build the Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB), which holds the distinction of being the nation's first Native American civil rights organization, as a potent political voice, and

WHEREAS William L. Paul, Sr., launched a newspaper in 1923 to advance the ANB agenda, and

WHEREAS William L. Paul, Sr., attacked school segregation, won citizenship rights for Natives, secured the right to vote and fought to protect salmon fishing—victories that were accomplished before the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act and during a period in American history when Native Americans openly were subjugated and their basic aboriginal and civil rights denied, and

WHEREAS William L. Paul, Sr., lobbied for the 1936 amendment to extend the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) to Alaska under which most Alaska tribal governments are organized today and in which he also introduced the idea of regional corporations and advocated for their incorporation under the IRA, and

WHEREAS William L. Paul, Sr., was elected to the territorial legislature as the first Alaskan Native legislator in 1923, and

WHEREAS William L. Paul, Sr., urged the members of the 1929 ANB Convention to fight for their land, and during the 1930s he successfully lobbied for the enactment of the 1935 Jurisdictional Act authorizing land claims litigation in the Court of Claims to secure compensation for the taking of aboriginal lands, and

WHEREAS William L. Paul, Sr., adamantly and consistently asserted that clans are the owners of land under Tlingit law and filed cases in which he asserted that clans were the rightful entities to litigate land rights, and

WHEREAS William L. Paul, Sr. achieved a stunning but short-termed legal victory in 1947 in *Miller v. United States* in which the Ninth Circuit affirmed the existence of congressionally-recognized aboriginal land and ruled that it cannot be seized by the government against the consent of the Tlingit landowners without paying just compensation, and

WHEREAS With the Forest Service selling billions of feet of timber and burning and destroying subsistence camps and driving the Tlingit from their lands, William L. Paul, Sr., resisted the confiscation of Tlingit property through legal action, which ultimately led to the timber escrow funds, and

WHEREAS Under the direction of William L. Paul, Sr., his sons filed the *Tee-Hit-Ton v. United States* case to test the extent of Tlingit land rights in Alaska, arguing that Tlingit property may not be taken against their will without just compensation, and thus the sale of timber from Tlingit land was an unconstitutional taking—but the United States Supreme Court ruled against the Paul's and upheld that the confiscation of Tlingit property was legal, and

WHEREAS Despite the loss of the *Tee-Hit-Ton v. United States* case before the United States Supreme Court, William L. Paul, Sr., set the course for the resolution of Alaska Native aboriginal land claims and worked tirelessly throughout his lifetime to protect the ownership of *Haa Áani* and today is recognized as the Father of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act, and

WHEREAS William L. Paul, Sr., was a prominent attorney and a charismatic orator with many accomplishments, supporters, enemies, victories and defeats and despite the controversy that surrounded his work, William L. Paul, Sr. is a hero to past, present and future Alaska Natives, and

WHEREAS William L. Paul, Sr., exemplifies and embodies the cultural values of *Haa Latseen* and *Haa Shuká*.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in recognition of his lifetime work and achievements on behalf of Alaska Natives, the Board of Trustees declares that the Sealaska Heritage Institute Archives shall be named "The William L. Paul, Sr., Archives."

Adopted this 3rd day of October, 2014 by the
Sealaska Heritage Institute Board of Trustees.



Joe Nelson, Secretary

