

Pat Pitney
Interim President

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March 3, 2021

Dear UA Community,

I write to you today in remembrance of Hugh “Bud” Fate who died February 25. Our condolences go out to his family and to the many Alaskans who were lucky to know and work with him.

Hugh served Alaska in so many capacities: as an Army veteran, a dentist, a legislator and, of course, as a two-term member of the University of Alaska Board of Regents including two years serving as the board’s president. He also served as interim president during a time of transition and as a member of the UA Foundation Board of Directors.

His history and life’s accomplishments and love for Alaska are legendary and lengthy, but his greatest love was for his wife, the late Mary Jane Fate, his daughters, his large family and his beloved city of Fairbanks.

In 2019, Sen. Dan Sullivan recognized his father-in-law on the floor of the U.S. Senate on the occasion of his 90th birthday and gave an invigorating recap of Hugh’s life including his deployment to Alaska where he drove the lead jeep to conduct a combat survey of the newly constructed, 1,700-mile-long Alcan Highway, advising the mission commanders about the Arctic, cold weather, and Alaska. [<https://www.sullivan.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/sullivan-honors-alaskan-of-the-week-hugh-bud-fate>]

On March 1, our state flag flew at half-staff in honor of Hugh and out of respect for his many contributions to Alaska. In fact, Hugh was as a role model for how fulfilling a life of public service can be. Hugh was dedicated to treating everyone with kindness and respect, and I ask all of you to remember him in that spirit.

Sincerely,

Pat Pitney

Interim UA President