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# Celebrating the Life of Kathleen "Mike" Dalton

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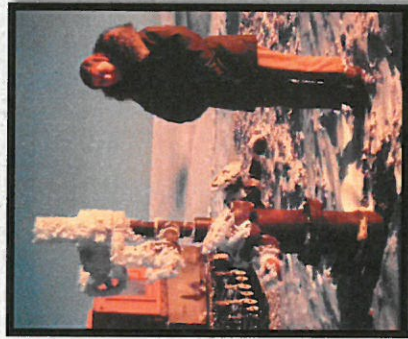
Sept. 10, 1925 to Jan. 29, 2019



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## A Great Alaskan Pioneer

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# Celebration of Life

Pioneer Hall-Pioneer Park

Saturday, March 9th-3:00pm



Opening Music.....Mary Ellen Koeller  
 Welcome.....George & Libby Dalton  
 Legislative Tribute.....Rep. Tammie Wilson  
 Eulogy.....Michael Stepovich  
 Pioneers of Alaska Memorial Service  
 Joyce Chace, President  
 Wanda Huber, Chaplain  
 Sonja Campbell, Historian  
 Sharing of Memories.....Audience  
 Alaska Flag Song.....Joy McDougall  
 Reception .....Midnight Sun Catering



# Kathleen "Mike" Dalton

Kathleen "Mike" Dalton was born Sept. 10, 1925 in Flagstaff, Arizona, to B. P. and Louise Fitzpatrick. The family moved to a Navajo Reservation where her father worked as a maintenance foreman. They later moved to Tucson where Mike finished her schooling. She attended Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff graduating with an English Degree.

Mike left Arizona to escape the heat, traveling to Fairbanks in 1949 at the encouragement of her friend Rosie Losonsky. She went to work almost immediately for Arctic Contractors. Her job was to decipher the technical data and information collected by the engineers and scientists and translate it into readable reports. She met Jim Dalton, a lifelong Alaskan, who was an engineer also working for Arctic Contractors. They fell in love and married at Pt. Barrow, August 17, 1950.

Jim was ass't superintendent for Arctic Contractors who did the construction and logistic work for the Navy in National Petroleum Reserve #4. Very few women were allowed to live at the Navy Camp. And the few women that did live there were not allowed to work, with the exception of scientists. So Mike learned to knit to pass the time. She also read a lot, explored the arctic and got to know the Inupiat people of Barrow. She became quite a proficient knitter, a skill she enjoyed the remainder of her life.

By 1955 it was time to move south and the Daltons settled on property off Yankovich Road in Fairbanks. Jim designed their dream home and helped build it along with Ole Thorgaard and Walt Wigger. A road had to be constructed and trees and brush cleared and it was finally completed in 1958. Jim commuted to the North Slope while Mike raised their two toddlers and got active in community activities.

Mike was a good writer and put her English skills to use taking a job with the Daily News Miner as a reporter in 1961. There she got to know many people of Fairbanks as she covered the police beat, births and deaths, civic and social events around town.

Senator Ted Stevens asked her to work for him in 1971 managing his Fairbanks Office. She thoroughly enjoyed her work for Senator Stevens. After the death of her husband she knew she needed a job that offered benefits such as retirement so she put in several years with the State of Alaska in Juneau working in Gov. Hammond's administration and later for Lt. Governor Jack Coghill.

Mike joined the Pioneers of Alaska, Women's Auxiliary No. 8 in 1965. Having been a transplant here she appreciated being accepted by the membership. She was active in the organization up until the end of her life. She embraced the members, the pioneer spirit and their mission. She especially enjoyed Golden Days, dressing up each year and participating in the mng up and parade. Mike attended many Pioneer Conventions across the state enjoying the people and camaraderie.

When computers came on the scene Mike jumped on board. She understood they would be the future and was soon a proficient user. She wrote email blasts for her organizations, printed invitations and membership booklets and enjoyed trolling on Face Book.

In 1980 Mike's first grandchild, Joseph, was born and she became known as Aka (grandmother in Inupiat). Two more grandkids came along in the 1990's whom she adored, (Rebecca and Daniel). And great granddaughter Mia was born in December of 2017 which brought her great joy during her final year.

Mike will remain an important part of Alaska's history and her contributions to Alaska are numerous. She was a journalist known for her knowledge of federal/state issues and a public servant. She served Lt. Governor Jack Coghill pressing for RS 2477 recognition by the federal government. She served as an aide to our congressional delegations. She worked tirelessly to promote the principles of the Republican Party and was the matriarch of the Fairbanks Republican Women's Club. Her commitment to her causes is unparalleled.

Mike was a force in Alaska life from the moment she arrived in 1949. She cherished her family and loved her friends, community and state. Her contributions are many and her dedication to her passions will long be

