


SUNDAY | MAY 11
FREE PARKING *this* **Mother's Day**
 on Seattle's Waterfront
 DowntownSeattleParking.com

YOUR OPINION MATTERS
 Take our survey and enter to win \$100
[Enter now >](#)
 The Seattle Times

Mobile | Newsletters | RSS | Subscriber services

Monday, May 5, 2014 | **TRAFFIC** | 57°F | Log in | Contact/Help

Follow us:

The Seattle Times
Local News
 Winner of Nine Pulitzer Prizes
 Advanced Search | Events & Venues | Obituaries

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Business & Tech](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Food](#) | [Living](#) | [Homes](#) | [Travel](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Weekly Ads](#)

THE TODAY FILE

Your guide to the latest news from around the Northwest

[MORNING MEMO](#) | [THE RIOTTER](#)
[TRAFFIC & TRANSIT](#) | [WEATHER BEAT](#)

May 5, 2014 at 11:24 AM

Billy Frank Jr.,

Nisqually elder who fought for treaty rights, dies

Posted by [Craig Welch](#)

Share: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)

[f](#) Recommend [J](#) [n](#)

[Print](#)



Fish manager Billy Frank, who played a key role in the fisheries' effort on the Nisqually river, is seen here on the river.

Billy Frank Jr., a Nisqually elder who for more than half a century was the charismatic voice of Northwest tribes fighting to hold on to their treaty rights, died early this morning, Nisqually tribal officials confirmed today.

Frank was 83.

"We are all stunned and not prepared for this," said W. Ron Allen, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Chairman who has worked with Frank since the early 1980s. "He was bigger than life. It's a very sad day for all of us."

Gov. Jay Inslee called Frank a "true legend" and said he was thankful that Frank was around to remind people the importance of what he fought for.

"He was a selfless leader who dedicated his life to the long fight for the rights of our state's native people," Inslee said in a statement. "Billy was a champion of tribal rights, of the salmon, and the environment.

He did that even when it meant putting himself in physical danger or facing jail."

Frank was first arrested for salmon fishing as a boy in 1945 — an event that led him on a long campaign for tribal rights, according to The Associated Press. He and others were repeatedly arrested as they staged "fish ins" demanding the right to fish in their historical waters, as they were guaranteed in treaties when they ceded land to white settlers in the 19th century, the AP said.

In 1974, U.S. District Judge George Boldt affirmed the tribes' right to half of the fish harvest — and the nation's obligation to honor the old treaties, according to The AP.

Despite the hard-won fishing rights, the tribes [found the number of fish had dwindled](#) over the years.

Frank continued to be an environmental leader and activist for salmon recovery.

| Topics: **BILLY FRANKD, JR., NATIVE AMERICAN FISHING RIGHTS**

From around the web

Selected for you by a Sponsor



Obama shakes Marine's hand after failing to salute
ArcalMax



5 Great Seasonal Jobs for Retirees
AARP



'Mama Durant' Goes Off On OKC Newspaper
espnW



The Top 5 Most Overrated Summer Destinations
Mainstreet

More from our network

Saturday Memo: Who won the pot-shop lottery? ... Boating season starts ... Richard Sherman goes to D.C. *From The Seattle Times Blogs*
Low-tide exploration *From Seattle Times Picture This*
For Meredith Kercher's family, court reasoning a step toward truth *From Seattle Times Local News*
Editorial: Gildo Rey's K-12 success in Auburn is proof teaching makes difference *From Seattle Times Editorials*
Architect couple turn a 'total dump' into a modern charmer *From Seattle Times Pacific Northwest*
Seattle Chef Ludger Szmania catches and cooks it May 15-20 in Sitka, Alaska *From The Seattle Times Blogs*

More from the web

5 Graduate Degrees You Should Just Do Online *From Education Portal*
iPhone 6 Rumors Confirmed *From SmartPhone-Buyer.com*
A Prefab Home on Washington's Puget Sound *From Dwell*
Oliver Stone Speaks His Mind On Ukraine *From huber*
This Ex-Microsoft Exec Will Not Sleep Until He Reinvents Investing *From Business Insider*
What are the Best Credit Cards for those with Excellent Credit? *From NextAdvisor Daily*

Recommended by

COMMENTS

No personal attacks or insults, no hate speech, no profanity. Please keep the conversation civil and help us moderate this thread by reporting any abuse. See our [Commenting FAQ](#).



Powered by Livefyre

The opinions expressed in reader comments are those of the author only, and do not reflect the opinions of The Seattle Times.

SECTION SPONSOR



- [Subscribe](#) |
- [Email a news tip](#) |

About The Today File

The Today File is a general news blog featuring real-time coverage of Seattle and the Northwest. It is reported by the news staff of The Seattle Times and includes stories from The Associated Press and McClatchy-Tribune Information Services. It is edited by Seattle Times Assistant Metro editor Nick Provenza. Please send feedback about this blog to webmaster@seattletimes.com, and direct news tips to newsstips@seattletimes.com.

ADVERTISING



MORE FROM ENVIRONMENT

MAY 2 - 8:30 AM \$5 million contract awarded to clear Highway 530 slide

MAY 1 - 2:43 PM Petitioners want slide-clearing work to go to local residents

APRIL 27 - 9:47 AM Temps may hit 80s this week in Seattle area


APRIL 23 - 3:39 PM 23,600 meals, snacks served in month since mudslide


APRIL 19 - 7:32 PM Boy, 12, killed by falling tree in Olympic forest


TRENDING WITH READERS

On Facebook
RECENT ACTIVITY

[Sign Up](#) Create an account or [Log In](#) to see what your friends are doing.

 **Tough tugs, big cargo and very long trips all the way to Alaska**
Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

 **Bird tries to fly away with pet dog near Cashmere**
Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

 **Seattle Police: Ten arrests made during May Day activities**

ADVERTISING



ADVERTISING

WHO WILL YOU MARRY?
So Accurate it's Scary!

CLICK HERE!
to Get Your Free Psychic Reading

Like

ADVERTISING

L.L.Bean FREE SHIPPING

INTRODUCING SLIM FIT
A NEW, MODERN FIT.
▶ FIND YOUR FIT

SITE MAP Home Local Nation/World Business/Tech Sports Entertainment Living Travel Opinion Obituaries Extras Forums

CONTACT THE SEATTLE TIMES COMPANY SERVICES

- Feedback/questionnaire
- Frequently asked questions
- Home delivery
- issues/apps
- Send us news tips
- Send letters
- Submit
- listing/today's Request News
- corrections Index
- Newsroom
- Social media
- Report malware
- Advertise with us
- Digital advertising
- Classifieds
- Death notices
- Job listings
- Auto listings
- Real Estate listings
- Rental listings
- About us
- Employment
- Historical archives
- Pulitzer prizes
- Seattle Times store
- Purchase photos
- Newspapers In Education
- Subscribe
- Manage subscription
- Temporary stops
- Make a payment
- Print Replica
- Today's front page (PDF)

The Seattle Times

The Seattle Times Company Network: [Seattletimes.com](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Homes](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Rentals](#) | [Personals](#)

Copyright ©2014 The Seattle Times Company | [Advertise with us](#) | [Privacy statement](#) | [Terms of service](#)