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A Tribute to Andy Anderson - Seldovia's Chief of Police for 30 Years!

Andy is the longest standing Police Chief in a single community in the entire State of Alaska!

Photos and Letters by the community of Seldovia as well as friends and family of Andy Anderson

Dear Andy,

Being a "newby" to Seldovia - only 7 years now, I was not the perfect person to gather together such an amazing group of friends and community members to honor you as you deserved. Enter, Dianne Gruber! Thank you Dianne for assisting me in the quest to contact this long list of folks who celebrate with Andy on this special occasion!

Andy, this compilation of notes, photos, letters, stories and congratulations are testimony to your impact on our town. We are so thankful for you, your service, your heart and your compassion for the community of Seldovia. We are fortunate and blessed to have you as our Chief of Police.

Thank you and Happy 30th! The Chissus Family

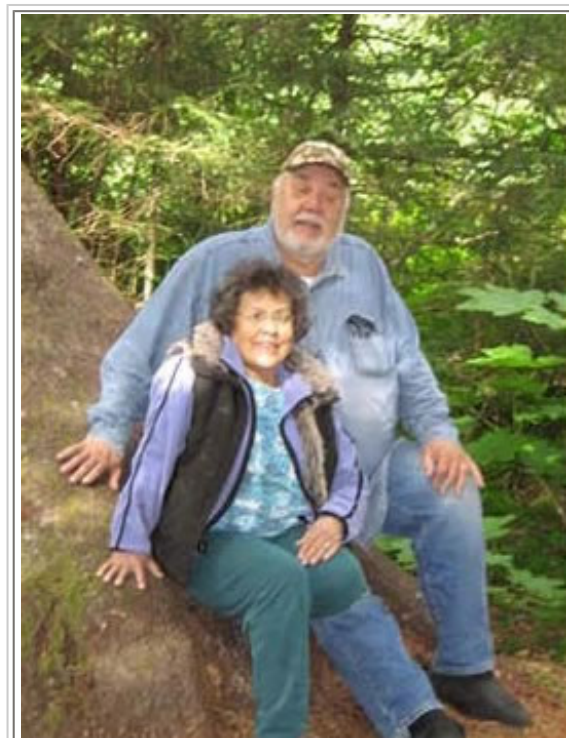
City of Seldovia Recognizes Andy's 30 years of Service!

10-03 - A proclamation of the mayor of the city of Seldovia, Alaska, recognizing Andy Anderson for his thirty years of service to the city.

WHEREAS, Andy Anderson has served the City as the Chief of Police for thirty (30) years,

WHEREAS, The City appreciates the many times that Andy Anderson has been available to serve the community,

WHEREAS, The City recognizes all that Andy Anderson does for the people



of Seldovia, above and beyond his police duties,
WHEREAS, Andy Anderson has served the City of Seldovia, with his presence on numerous occasions and events,
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor of the City of Seldovia recognizes Andy Anderson for his thirty years of service protecting and helping the people of Seldovia, and further thank him for his long and dedicated service to the City of Seldovia.



Dad,

I can't believe it's been 30 years of service for the City of Seldovia as Chief of Police. I was 10 years old when you started and I remember being so proud of my daddy becoming a Police Officer. I know you always thought it was so hard being the "Cops daughter" as I was growing up, but really it wasn't. I never got teased or bugged about being the "cops kid" (I guess because everyone was too afraid of you to pick on me J).

I know that having such a great upbringing from you and mom helped me stay very self assured and determined, but of course I've always been a daddy's girl and I miss our "talks" we would have as I was growing up...it was just me and daddy time. Now as an adult with my own teenage son, I know I can always count on you for encouraging words of wisdom whenever I may need them.

In all the years growing up the worst thing for me was having to stay home on evenings and weekends to dispatch for you. Who knew I would end up in Law Enforcement as a Police Dispatch Supervisor...it was all those years of training, and now I get paid to do it. I can honestly say I do not believe I'll be in Law Enforcement for 30 years, my hands go up to you for sticking it out, always keeping the community a priority.

Still to this day I can go almost anywhere and talk about Alaska, and the small town I'm from and someone will always know where Seldovia is at. I let them know that my dad is the Chief of Police and they always say "oh you're Andy's daughter", and they always have great things to say about you, I am proud to be "Andy's daughter".

SMALL TOWN COP ***by Chief Andy Anderson***

I have been Seldovia's Chief of Police now for 30 years. During this time I have always tried to convince you, the public, to call when Police are needed and not to wait until the next day to report the problem. This hasn't worked well so I put in rhyme my feelings and hopefully you, the Public, will understand and call when an incident is occurring.

I'm a cop in a small town in Alaska
On the shores of Kachemak Bay.
Being the only Police within miles
I'm on call 24 hours a day.

Many people visit our small town
In the spring and the summertime,
And often they say, "With a town of this size,
There certainly can't be any crime."

I tell them all the very same thing
And I say it with a firm, set jaw,
"Of course we don't have crime around here,
Didn't you know, crime's against the law."

This always puts a smile on their face,
Then I tell them a few of the facts.
When you have people in numbers large are small,
There are those who commit criminal acts.

Maybe it's brought on by alcohol or drugs,
Or maybe it's just simply greed.
A person wanting something someone else has,
Is all the reason some people need.

Inhibitions go out the window at times,
When alcohol or drugs are in use.
The next thing you know I'm on the scene of a wreck,
Or maybe it's domestic abuse.

I've witnessed a lot I wouldn't have believed,
Since I took the badge in this town.
I've seen families torn from alcohol abuse,
And I've seen them come crumbling down.

I've seen fights start for no reason,
And I've seen sights that leave you chilled.
And yes, I've witnessed that bitter end result,
I've bagged their bodies after they were killed.

You have done so much for Seldovia for 30 years, and someday when you retire, I know you will continue to help people in whatever way you can, that's just you.

Thank you for being a great dad, husband, grandpa, uncle, brother, friend and Chief of Police. You're the best.

I Love You!

Daddy's Girl Always,
Donica



When we use to have our shotgun shoots out at my place every Sunday, both Gerry Willard and Andy were regulars. We sometimes would have up to 12 shooters. Gerry loved to shoot and compete, but he was about our worst shot. One Sunday we had a poor turn out. Gerry was there but Andy did not make it. After the shoot Gerry went back to town and found Andy. He said Andy, you never show up when I'm having a really good day shooting, I got third place today! Andy congratulated him. A Few days later I was talking to Andy and told him we missed him at the shoot, we only had 3 shooters. Andy roared. "That Willard was bragging he got third place" I told Andy: "He didn't lie, he got third place."

Red Kvarford

Andy Anderson has been on our police force for 30 years. Hard to believe it has been that much time. We started to think about what he had meant to us, and it was hard to go there. Andy has been with us in some of the hardest days of our lives. Always a good and steady friend, doing what needed to be done, and a comfort for the way he did it.

It all seems to me to be pointless
And I'm sure others feel the same way.
What do we do to stop all of this,
To insure you're alright the next day.

Do we leave it to everyone else,
And not take part or lend a hand.
Do we look away and not get involved,
And bury our heads deep down in the sand.

I would hope for all of our sakes,
You get more involved in your little town.
If you see something suspicious give me a call,
And together lets put it down.

It's your town that I'm protecting
So take part and lend me a hand.
Call me when something looks out of place,
It's about time we all took a stand.

It's too often I find out the problem,
A day or two after the fact.
It would be a great deal easier,
If I was told at the time of the act.

So don't wait to tell me tomorrow,
Don't worry about me getting my rest.
Just call me when it's happening,
Let's give them a go at my test.

It's not that our town is an unsafe place,
No, we're not in a crime ridden state.
Together we can end a lot of problems though
So call me even if it is late.

If you see a person in an area
Where you don't think that person should be,
That's the time to get on the phone
And discuss the problem with me.

Maybe there is a good explanation,
But maybe there is no excuse at all.
Could be you'll save your neighbor some grief,
It's important that you make the call.

Be sure to trust you own feelings,
If something looks wrong it most likely is,
Let the suspects account for their own actions,
Lets see if their up to my quiz.

We also have lots of fun memories, mostly involving Andy and a guitar. We ought to have more singspirations in our community. They were very special and we always went home feeling good and wanting more.

As the director of the substance abuse program here and in the villages down the line, I got to see Andy at his professional best. And usually it was more personal than professional. He is a caring person, taking care of the community—giving many more second chances than the public ever knew, looking for the way to make something positive out of difficult situations.

We feel very blessed to have had Andy guaranteeing our public safety all these years. Congratulations, Chief.

Rod and Sunni Hilts

Congratulations to A W Anderson for 30 years of dedicated service to the City of Seldovia and surrounding area.

We have known Andy for only 15 years and have found him to be very dedicated. His attitude and professionalism is unparalleled. Chief Anderson has been very fair in the application of law enforcement. He has been known to use some gentle verbiage to point persons in the right direction and if the offence was repeated he may use a different approach, tickets etc. Chief Anderson was always there when needed no matter what time of day or night. He has dedicated 30 years to serve justice for Seldovia.

Chief Anderson has many talents like writing poems and he also played guitar and sang. We only wish we had lived here years ago when "Rose" the pig was given to him as it sounds like those were the fun day. Andy has many stories and lots of history behind them. Too bad Jerry Willard wasn't here to do a "Chief Anderson Roast" as that would have been an event that would long be remembered, of that you can be sure!!!

Charles & Mary Gillick
Former Seldovia Residents

CHIEF ANDERSON
AKA
"ANDY"

I first met Andy as a visitor to Seldovia while fishing with a mutual friend, Kent Logan. Andy lived in a trailer by the cannery and at the time was running equipment for a contractor out of Anchorage. Me being a retired equipment operator myself, judged Andy to be a cut above the people I worked with and his ability to run a wide variety of equipment as a professional.

I later was astonished with his ability to handle a tug and barge combo as we approached the fuel dock with an outgoing tide and the wind blowing about 10 knots from up the Bay. Andy slid the combo to the dock with precision I have yet to witness from another pilot, we came in and it was so gentle I could

234-7640 is the number,
At the Police Department I keep,
Homer PD is 235-3150,
If you think I'm already asleep.

They know how to contact me quickly,
And they know what answers I need.
They will dispatch me and make me aware,
Of the safest way I need to proceed.

911 is an easy number to remember,
In emergencies we use it all the time,
But it's not just for life and death matters,
Use 911 when you're witnessing a crime.

Tell the Dispatcher what is happening,
And make sure the Police are underway,
But first and foremost you keep yourself safe,
And we'll get there without too much delay.

Be a good neighbor, that's all I'm asking,
Report things that look to be wrong,
Don't leave it for others to deal with,
Put responsibility where it belongs.

So now that you've read this writing,
Do what you know to be right.
Keep Seldovia safe and give me a call
Even if it's the middle of the night.



The

day I took this photo we were smiling because we said the Argo that Andy was driving could be his summertime squad car and that all he needed to do was to attach a siren and some flashing lights.

Carol Zeien

Dear Andy -

barley detect when we were docked, only the retarding of the throttle confirmed the end.

Andy and I became good friends as time passed and some moments I recall were the dances at the Linwood where Andy played the Guitar with a local group. It also includes the hours of work Andy and the Mayor at that time put in organizing the 4th of July picnic and parade. This event was memorable to me and the friends I brought down to celebrate, not to forget the locals and elders of Seldovia.

I was with Andy one night on routine patrol when a wild and apparently drunk driver almost ran us off the road, a high speed pursuit out the road ended with a traffic stop and an interview with the driver. Andy exhibited professionalism and compassion as he defused a volatile situation and delivered the person to their family safe and sound.

These are situations most people don't witness but are in the reports buried in the tons of paperwork required to do as part of his job. I could go on and on with stories and situations involving the people of Seldovia, friends and relatives from Anchorage but if you dig deep in your hearts you will realize you also have stories to be told. Most people in Seldovia thought Andy and I were brothers, and a lot never knew the truth, but I was proud to have people associate me as his brother, quite an honor.

In conclusion, it is disturbing for me to see such dedication and service to the community taken casually by a lot of citizens who would have a very difficult time walking in this man's moccasins.

Happy anniversary Andy and may God Bless.

Al Rein

Congratulations Andy for a job well done! Your dedication to public safety has made Seldovia a pleasurable place for the more than 30 years we have called Seldovia our second home. We will always treasure our friendship.

P.S. We also like your jokes!

Diane and Joe Hayes

It kind of came and went without much la-ta-da but on August 9th, 30 years ago Andy Anderson was sworn in as Seldovia's police. They picked him mostly because he had whipped all the toughs in town, at one time or another.

We heard he fell off the pumpkin truck and landed in Seldovia on May 1st 1964, a one way ticket I hear.

Seldovia was a busy place back then with canneries, fishing and freight and bars.

Little by little things got better until our town got to be just the perfect place we found in '93. (Another day in paradise)

This letter is written to you so that all who read this will know what your wife Ann, daughter Donica, grandson Weston, not to mention countless friends, already recognize: you are a man who garners respect from those whom you serve, and from those who have served with you, throughout your years with the Seldovia Police Department. You are one who always places others before yourself; you are not only there every day, but into the wee hours of every night, whether it be to respond in an emergency, lend a helping hand or provide comfort in a time of need. You have gone above and beyond to show kindness in your dealings and you fully understand what it means to protect and serve, all the while, upholding the public's trust.

For thirty years, you have committed yourself to the betterment of your community. Your assignments, coupled with your sense of integrity, ethical behavior, compassion and selfless service make you an outstanding representative of what every Police Officer should strive to become. Over the years, you have been a member of the Department who has consistently given of himself to make the City of Seldovia a better place to live. Your countless acts of giving can never be fully documented because of your ability to give without needing to be recognized for it.

You have served as a mentor to decades of Officers. You truly demonstrate "fortitudo et decos" (strength and honor) and are the epitome of what a true public servant should represent. You have truly displayed pride in your profession and devotion to the residents of Seldovia. These are only a few of the qualities, among many more, that Kent and I talked about throughout the years and I know he would join me in saying this definitely an "ATTA BOY" letter! The residents of Seldovia, your family and friends have all benefited because you have served.

The brotherhood shared by Police Officers is a well known fact, for some it is a professional connection but for others, the connection develops into a friendship that runs far deeper than time spent together on the job.

Our families were lucky enough to develop a friendship that has lasted more than a quarter century, sharing more than just the connection of two Police Officers bound by the same oath. We met you back in the early 1980's through a business partnership that developed into a long lasting friendship, and eventually a mutual love for the City of Seldovia, where Kent, and I, chose to spend our summers.

For those that know you well, it should come as no surprise that our first encounter with you occurred when Kent ran out of gas pulling our boat into the harbor for the first time. As a Police Officer, you came to our rescue and quickly became a friend who generated much respect for your ability to not only navigate the waters of Alaska, but life itself. You and

He has been there for all, whether it was liked or not. Andy is fair and treats all the same when it comes to the law. It doesn't matter if you're friends, family or even a stranger. (Though a friend should not put him in that position) We truly respect and love Andy as Chief of Police, a very dear friend and wish him the best for years to come. Seldovia would not be the same without him!

Phillip and Shirley Hughes

Dear Andy,

It is said that the "GOOD GUYS" wear white hats----- well Andy you must have a lot of "white hats".

Happy 30 years! Hang in there, we miss you and Seldovia.

Terry and June Reuling
Kahoka, Missouri



We have known Andy for 20 years he has always been there whenever any one has needed him day or night.

It takes a lot of commitment to be a police officer in a small town and to have done it for 30 years.

We really appreciate all the work he has done over the years and also his and Ann's friendship over the past 20 years.

George and Chris Oliveira

This letter is to give a special thanks to a Great Chief of Police, Andy Anderson.

Kent spent countless hours together sharing stories as Police Officers, offering advice and support to each other in a way that only Brothers can, but you also shared far more than a professional kinship.

Over the years, our families have been known to share our homes, often us at your home in Seldovia and you at our home in Anchorage. We've spent countless hours laughing, telling jokes, listening to you play the guitar and sing. We've celebrated our successes, and defeats, shared quiet dinners, and noisy parties, happiness and sadness. We've watched each others children graduate school, attended their weddings, and shared the joy of seeing our grandchildren born and grow up. We were there for Fuzz Ball when Rosebud was introduced to you for the first time, and we were there to partake in the meal on 4th of July when Rosebud was roasted. All in all, few people are fortunate enough in life to have friends that can truly be considered family....for us, we were lucky enough to find that kind of friendship in you.

Words will never be able to truly express the man that you are, the public servant that you strive to be, and the trusted friend that you are to so many people. I know that I speak for my entire family when I say that we feel honored and blessed to have had you in our lives for so long. It is truly a privilege to write this letter and celebrate with you as you are honored for 30 years of service to the State of Alaska and the City of Seldovia.

ATTA BOY!
Love and Friendship Always,
The Logans

Andy Anderson has been a life long friend to us in good times and bad. He has always helped in times of need and been available to lend an ear or a shoulder as the situation required.

He is a people person which is why he is so good at his job. He does not use his authority excessively and works best within the confines of this small community, which is why he is a perfect fit for Seldovia. As an officer of the law, Andy is always there when he's needed.

We will always be happy that he is our friend and our Police Chief in Seldovia. We wish him many more years of service to this town.

With great appreciation - Jim & Linda Hopkins

Andy:

I have not personally known Chief Anderson very long, but through the eyes of his daughter Donica, who works as a dispatch supervisor for the same police agency that I work for. I have had the opportunity of hearing many stories and experiences that she has shared with me over the past couple of years; and they made me feel as though Chief Anderson and I have known each other for a long period of time.

About a year ago I had the opportunity of having Andy and his lovely wife Ann in my home for dinner. During this time of fellowship I had the opportunity to share with him that I had been in law enforcement since 1970 and had been a Chief of Police as well. As we continue to talk I soon found that Chief Anderson and I thought alike on so many things, in how we performed our law enforcement duties, the caring we each had for our community, and the politics that went along with being in a small community.

With just the short time I had with your Chief, I soon heard and saw the compassion and dedication that he had for his people and his community.

You are truly blessed to have a man of Chief Anderson's caliber that through the good and bad times stuck it out for 30 years. To help bring to you a quality of life that can come from providing a good, fair and quality law enforcement in a community.

Chief Anderson, I would like to congratulate you for your dedication to the oath you took in providing professional and quality law enforcement for the past 30 years to the City of Seldovia.

Thank you also for allowing me to be a small part of this dedication, and by the way I still plan on coming up and going fishing with you.

Officer Larry Groom
Tulalip Tribal Police

When first moving to Seldovia it was so unique to see the Police Chief as we would have imagined one to be. Andy Anderson is to be respected in that he has put up with an enormous amount of events and has managed to pull it off for 30 years! That is an amazing record and deserves a huge pat on the back. This is not an easy position to be in a town that is just a big family and everyone knows everyone else's business.

Our hats are off to you, Andy!
Tom & Mary Glover

Tribute To Andy

Andy Anderson is as good a friend as a man could have, and has been that for me and my family for thirty years now. Working with him for over a decade was a really memorable experience. There are many things to value and admire in Andy, not the least of which is his ability to understand people and get things done under difficult circumstances, opting for cooperation and mutual agreement over forced compliance. That and his capacity to see above

Well, here it is thirty years later and you are still hard at work. It is hard for me to believe time goes by so fast.

Our paths have crossed many times in the years you have been a police officer, both personally and professionally. Since I was a trooper, and up through my years as commissioner of public safety, you have always been there whenever any assistance was requested. In all my time with public safety there has never been a negative response from you. I have worked with and for many officers and police chiefs but none I put in your caliber. I can only imagine some of the trials and tribulations you have faced in the many years as Seldovia chief. Anyone that can maintain such a position as you have shows the professional courage that few possess. Not only Seldovia but also the citizens of our state have benefited from your years of public service.

One must not forget the support and you have received from Ann, who without, the job would have been much harder. It takes a strong lady to make the sacrifices necessary if we are to be successful.

It has been an honor and privilege to know and work with you these many years.

Art(Oscar)English
DPS Retired

Dear Andy,

Congrats my friend on your 30 year anniversary of service, you have indeed been an instrumental part of your community.

Some may be surprised to learn that you are the longest standing Police Chief in the same community in the entire State of Alaska! You have the respect of all and will always have many friends, and that my friend Andy is what life is all about.. Thank you.

Homer Police Chief (Retired)
Dennis Oakland

Congratulations Andy!!

Thirty years doing the same job for the same people is an incredible accomplishment. I realize that while we are doing it, it's just one day after another. But those days add up to a career that exemplifies the history of the community. I know there have been times over the years I thought they should have renamed Seldovia to Andersonville because without

the fracas what is truly important and act on that have set him apart, both personally and professionally.

His presence here in Seldovia has been a gift to all of us that is unlikely to be appreciated fully until a time comes when we no longer have it. So, I would like to say here and now, thanks Andy, for all you do for our community and for just being yourself among us in this little settlement by the sea.

Jim Standefer

I too, would like to recognize my dear friend Andy Anderson as a man of many hidden talents. Some may not be aware of the fact that he is an extraordinary writer, whose short stories shine with resonance and humor and whose poetry is truly artful. His love of and talent for music are also a delightful part of his nature, and those of us who know him well have enjoyed those talents whenever he allowed us to catch a glimpse of them. Scratch the surface of this big bear and you will find a multitude of talents, a brilliant intellect, and a genuine greatness of heart. Thank you Andy. We who truly know you salute you.

Marilyn Standefer



To Chief Andy Anderson,

How best can anyone really acknowledge 30 years of service given in the capacity of a position that must at all times balance the written law, common sense, objectivity, and compassion all at the same time and all equally?

We know that you have kept this position and served it honorably first and foremost because you care so deeply for this little place called Seldovia and for the people and families that live here.

We want to say thank you Andy, for the personal sacrifices we know you have made, for the security you bring to our town, for the opportunities and knowledge you have given to us personally in working with you.

It is often said that if a person can count their true friends on one hand they are indeed fortunate. That we have the privilege of counting you as one of ours

you, no one would have been in charge. Worse yet, no one would have been there to help those in need. The community of Seldovia has been very fortunate to have you working for them, but I'm sure few think of that from day to day. Some of us notice, however, and I wish to extend to you a hearty congratulations in a job very well done. You are a rock in Seldovia's foundation that they could not have done without. Thank you for your service, and thank you for your friendship. It is a true honor to call you my friend. Hope the next 30 go a little smoother.

Greg McCullough

Dear Andy,

Thank you for thirty years of police service to the people of Seldovia. You recently told us you originally accepted the job so that you could be at home with your family instead of working away. Our family appreciates that you were here, also. You have been here not only to remind Joy Louise to go home to get her helmet when riding the four-wheeler but have even given her advice on safety in Anchorage when she left for school. You always ask how she is doing and if there are any problems. You are always there to look after the young people of our town and try to prevent problems before they become something more, something not so easily fixed.

We hope you have another thirty years down at the Police office!

Our thanks again,
Hugh and Sally Smith

THANK YOU ANDY!

We are so thankful for all that Andy does for Seldovia - We are all lucky that he is our "cop". Bud and I have had a home here for 26 years - as "summer people". In that period of time, Andy has helped us on several occasions.

The most serious was in 1998 when we had our unfortunate plane crash. He was extremely helpful and caring. The least serious was a few years ago when I became concerned because I had not seen any crows anywhere for three days. I told him I wanted to file a missing crow report - 24 hours later I got a call from Chief Andy Anderson announcing "The Crows Are Back!"

We appreciate his wonderful sense of humor as well as his excellent service. Again, we say - "Thank you Andy!"

Hazel and Bud Brown and K.K.

makes us feel not only fortunate but humbled as well.

God Bless our dear friend.

John and Dianne Gruber

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