

TERRY T. CAVANAUGH, PT

CAPTAIN, USPHS

CAPT Terry Cavanaugh will retire from the United States Public Health Service in June of this year after 30 years of dedicated service as a commissioned officer and an integral member of the Therapist category.

CAPT Cavanaugh's career as a commissioned officer began in 1979 at a BMS site in Seattle, Washington. His next assignment was with the BOP in Rochester, Minnesota in which he spent 3 years. The remaining 20 years of his career were spent in Sitka, Alaska where he was the Chief of Therapy Services as well as the Alaska Area Therapy Consultant. In that capacity, he enhanced the therapy program by increasing the number of therapists and expanding the student intern program. He was instrumental in adding physical therapy services at the clinics in Juneau, Klawock, and Haines, which significantly improved health services to Native People of Southeast Alaska.

CAPT Cavanaugh served as Alaska Rehab Consultant from 11/04 to his retirement. As such, he helped institute annual IHS Therapist meetings and assisted with filling PT vacancies in Alaska IHS clinics. He was very active in TPAC as a member and in multiple task forces for efforts on billet review, appointment standards, promotion benchmarks, and charter review.

Perhaps most notable in CAPT Terry Cavanaugh's career was his high level of community involvement with native youth. He volunteered as a chaperone on school trips, as a counselor/fund raiser to educate youth in traditional Native values and ways of life, and in a community program that facilitated interaction between elders and youth. He gave of his time teaching first aid and safety to boy scouts, served as a leader in a Boy Scout summer camp, and was on the executive counsel for a local Boy Scout troop. CAPT Cavanaugh and his family hosted a total of 5 foreign exchange students and one exchange teacher in their home.

Related, no doubt, to his devotion to his community and the health of its' members and to honor his active support of native values, CAPT Cavanaugh was adopted into the Tlingit Tribe, Raven Nest House and given an Indian name in December of 1993. CAPT Cavanaugh's career is well highlighted with numerous Public Health Service awards as well as other awards and honors. He maintained membership with multiple professional associations throughout his entire career. CAPT Cavanaugh's final thoughts on his career are as quoted "I am deeply grateful to have enjoyed a career as a US Public Health Service Therapist – good work with some of the best people." "I've received a lot in return from the people I've worked with and it would make me happy to think I've given something back along the way."

CAPT Cavanaugh's sustained high quality service and dedication to the Commissioned Corps and the US Public Health Service over the past 30 years will be greatly missed. The Therapist Category wishes to thank CAPT Terry Cavanaugh for his many efforts and accomplishments in improving therapy services for Native American and Alaska Natives. We wish him well in his retirement and with his future.