

### **Biographical Information**

My Sitka residency began in 1992, only leaving to serve in the United States Marine Corps. After my enlistment, I returned home to Sitka and began my adult life here. During this time I have worked in Real Estate, Corrections and own Russell's, a third generation family owned store with my wife Ashley, which recently opened a second location called Trailhead Supply Co. Next year my son Fisher will start Kindergarten here. My volunteer duties have included the Sitka Fire Department as a Lt. Firefighter, EMT and Search and Rescue, member of the Gary Paxton Industrial Park Board, Chamber Board Member, Police and Fire Commissioner and Downtown Revitalization Group. Additionally serving Sitka over the last 10 years on the assembly with 4 as Mayor, I had liaison opportunities with the Gary Paxton Industrial Park Board, Tree and Landscape Committee, Sitka Economic Development Association, Sitka Community Hospital Board and Tribal Counsel.

### **Advocacy Statement**

Sitka continues to be the best place in Southeast Alaska to live. These times are exciting, as we have so much opportunity on the horizon. Fishermen are gaining a facility to maintain vessels. Floatplane pilots are getting a much-needed base. The USCG will homeport a fast response cutter in our channel. Soon, a world class regional health care facility will open its doors. Visitors flying into Sitka will see a brand-new airport. Young families are finding new opportunities to stay in Sitka through tourism related businesses. All of this is facilitated by an assembly that continues to work together for Sitka. An assembly that I have had the honor of leading for the past 4 years. This does not mean we can sit back and relax just yet. There are hurdles still to overcome. Fish prices and abundance are on a decline. King salmon is currently going through an ESA listing process. We are still working through tourism to find the right level for Sitka. City infrastructure continues to age and decay. Costs of service for needed municipal programs continues to rise. I am again running for Mayor to assist in navigating these times, both the prosperity and the struggles. The assembly will continue to be a stable voice for the community and provide an environment that encourages employee retention and recruitment. We will continue to effectively lobby at the state and federal level to bring funds to Sitka. This is the Sitka I want to lead into the future.