

## Meet Kyle Crow, representing the Kodiak Island Borough



*Kyle Crow (r) with CIRCAC  
Executive Director Mike  
Munger*

Kyle Crow, CIRCAC's Kodiak Island Borough representative, is another one of the Board's most versatile members. He grew up just west of Red Bluff, California, surrounded by rolling hills, oak trees, cattle, sheep, and farms. He was the middle child of three boys whose farmer neighbors taught him practical skills, such as welding. By the time Kyle was 12 years old, he was tearing apart and reassembling farm machinery and cars. Such learning experiences, he said, gave him a level of confidence that he could do anything.

At 17 and a self-described "wild child," Kyle escaped high school by joining the U.S. Marine Corps. He became a scuba instructor while stationed in Okinawa. The Marines also tried to nurture his journalistic skills with a job in public affairs. After getting published in *Stars & Stripes*, they offered him a permanent post if he would re-enlist. But Kyle decided against a military career and opted instead for college on the GI Bill. Before his Honorable Discharge, he was transferred to Yuma, Arizona to serve as the Human Relations Program manager for a 7000-man air combat maneuvering base where he made sergeant before he was old enough to vote.

At 21, Kyle quit college and with no experience, talked himself into a job as a drag line operator to make some money. One job led to another. He drove pilings, worked on bridges, ran a bulldozer, and handled dynamite. He learned that attitude, aptitude, and willingness paid off, as each time he'd put his hat in the ring, say he could do it, show up, and only then learn how to do what he said he knew how to do.

Friends introduced him to Alaska and in 1977 Kyle found himself in Anchorage. He worked for Tyonek Timber and Inlet Marine until the death of the owner, who was piloting the plane carrying Ann and Senator Ted Stevens when it crashed in Anchorage in 1978. While in Southcentral, Kyle continued to pad his resume with a variety of jobs, including roustabout on the North Slope and heavy equipment and crane operator on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, running a crane at Thompson Pass.

Kyle got married and took a job as a civilian crane and heavy equipment operator with the Army at Fort Greely in 1979, and moved his growing family to Haines in 1982 to manage the maintenance of the Army tank farm for five years until it shut down. He logged, worked construction and commercial fished to stay in Haines and build a house on the beach. But making a good steady wage there proved difficult and in between jobs, he'd travel throughout Southeast Alaska on the Ferry to look for better work. This was made possible because his wife worked for the Marine Highway and the family could travel for free on standby. In 1992, while docked in Ketchikan, a visit to a Job Center led him to Kodiak to work as an industrial inspector for the Coast Guard. In this position Kyle was responsible for overseeing the operation, repair and maintenance of a marine fuel terminal and aviation fueling facility, as well as providing engineering support for the Coast Guard's remote fuel storage facilities throughout Alaska. He's been in Kodiak ever since.

In addition to his many skills, Kyle has extensive military experience. He served three different enlistments in the Army National Guard and altogether has had four honorable discharges. Now retired, Kyle serves as a member of the Kodiak Island Borough Assembly. He was appointed to CIRCAC's Board of Directors to fill the term of Scott Smiley. As a board member, Kyle brings his extensive experience and

knowledge of terminal operations, facility maintenance and repair and oil pipeline operations. He is keenly interested in the potential for increased vessel traffic in the Kodiak region from the proposed gas line terminal and its possible impact on Kodiak's fishing fleet.

Kyle has two grown daughters and five grandchildren. In keeping with family tradition, one of his daughters is in the Air Force and one of his grandsons has signed up to join the Marines after high school.

