



Alaska Radio Mission
P.O. Box 988, Nome, Alaska 99762
Ric Schmidt, General Manager 907-443-5221
Fr. Armand Nigro, S.J. www.knom.org
& Fr. Vince Beuzer, S.J., Spiritual Advisors

******For Immediate Release******

KNOM Legend Tom Busch Has Died

KNOM broadcasting pioneer Tom Busch passed away unexpectedly Monday morning in his sleep. Tom leaves behind his wife Florence and two grown children. Monday was his sixty-third birthday.

As KNOM General Manager Ric Schmidt has said, “There would be no KNOM Radio without Tom.”

In 1970, Busch helped dig – with a pick and shovel – holes in the permafrost for KNOM’s very first AM transmitter tower. He wired the original broadcast studios and later raised funds to replace those studios once they became unsuitable for use. For nearly thirty years, Tom led KNOM Radio as its general manager and engineer; from 2005 to 2010, he continued to work tirelessly, as its development director, to secure the station’s financial future.

On and off the air, Tom was utterly dedicated to broadcasting in Western Alaska. Over four decades, he patiently mentored hundreds of KNOM’s full-time volunteers; for many of them, Tom’s guidance and infectious love for radio marked the start of a successful career in broadcasting. He held a special place in his heart for budding broadcasters and broadcast engineers. Tom was a member of the elite Alaska Broadcasters Hall of Fame and a board member of Alaska Public Radio. He leaves behind a legacy that would be the envy of any broadcaster.

Busch’s civic activities were not limited to radio. He was an active Rotarian, an avid ham radio operator (NL7H), a parish minister, an Iditarod board member, and a Boy Scout leader. He inspired so many in so many different ways.

Busch was born in Philadelphia and graduated from Boston College; he earned an honorary Doctorate of Human Letters from his alma mater in 2004.

Busch had a passion for the people of Nome and Western Alaska. He will be deeply missed.

The Busch family requests donations to KNOM Radio Mission in lieu of flowers. Funeral services are pending; details about funeral arrangements, when available, will be posted on KNOM’s website (www.knom.org).