



RON KARABAICH

Puyallup Tribal Council Vice Chairman Larry LaPointe, center, thanks Commander, Navy Region Northwest Rear Adm. Douglass Biesel, right, and Joe Martinac, President of J.M. Martinac Shipbuilding Corporation, at an honor ceremony Dec. 5 in recognition of the recent launching of a new Navy tug boat named after the Puyallup Tribe.

Region admiral helps welcome newest tug boat

CNRNW Public Affairs

Commander, Navy Region Northwest participated in an honor ceremony with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Dec. 5 in recognition of the recent launching of YT-806, a new Navy tug boat named "Puyallup."

During the ceremony, Puyallup Tribal Council Vice Chairman Larry LaPointe presented Navy Region Northwest Commander Rear Adm. Douglass Biesel with a special blanket and adopted him into the tribe as an honorary member. Biesel thanked the tribe and presented LaPointe with a plaque recognizing the relationship between the Navy and the Puyallup Tribe.

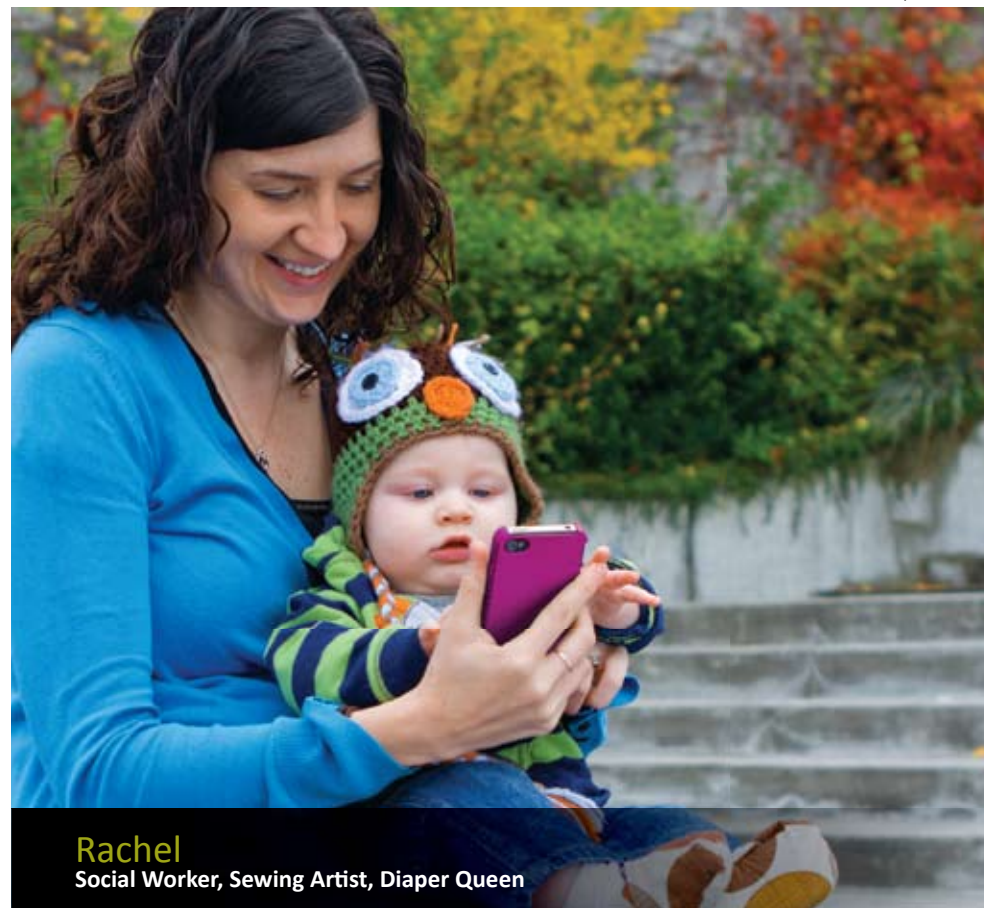
"We value and respect our relations with Native American tribes," said Biesel. "The Navy is honored that the Puyallup Tribe allowed the use of their name on this tug boat."

J.M. Martinac Shipbuilding Corporation President Joe Martinac host-

ed the ceremony, which was held at their shipyard in Tacoma. The private shipyard has constructed five tug boats for the Navy so far, including YT-806, which was launched Sept. 29.

Biesel said, "Our tribal relations are a key aspect of building strong and enduring partnerships, and are integral to supporting our national defense mission."

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