

Ralph Olanna Jr. (Chubby), was born on August 8th, 1955, on the beach at Sandspit in Nome. Ralph was adopted and raised by Ralph and Margaret Olanna of Nome. His grandparents on his mother's side are Phillip Nunooruk of Wales and Mary Nunooruk of Little Diomed and Foster and Nellie Olanna both from Shishmaref on his father's side.

Growing up, Ralph's family lived a very traditional lifestyle hunting seals, oogruk, walrus, fishing, hunting birds, gathering plants and berry picking. On one hunting trip, when Ralph was a teenager, he shared ***"I was with my dad and uncle, we became trapped in the ice for 3 days after the ocean ice opened up. We started heading home and we almost made it to Nome when the motor broke, we were blown out to sea for 4 days before we were rescued by a Japanese fishing research vessel about 30 miles south of Golovin Bay. Growing up, we use to hunt sea mammals in May and June, today, they hunt in April and May cause by May and June there is no more ice."***

At 14, Ralph started working for Builders Industrial Supply in Nome until he graduated from Nome Beltz in 1974. Ralph joined the Navy after high school and later went to boot camp in San Diego, later Jet Engine Repair School in Millington Tennessee then to his Squadron VF 211 at NAS Maramar where he worked on F-14 fighter aircrafts. Ralph did one west pac cruise on the USS Constellation and worked on the fighters till 1978. Then went to work for Munz Northern Airline for 2 years before joining the Army National Guard in 1980.

In the Army National Guard, Ralph started out as a UH-1H Huey helicopter Mechanic and Crew Chief then moved into working on the first US Army UV-18 Twin Otter. In 1997, Ralph was promoted to 1st SG. He then served two years with Charlie Company a UH-60 helicopter company. He later went onto serve Fox Company, a fixed wing company that had C23 Sherpa's for two years before moving to Delta Company, a heavy maintenance company for UH-60 helicopters, where he was responsible for 87 good troops. Ralph retired from the Army National Guard in 2003.

After retirement, Ralph tried to pursue crab fishing in Dillingham on his own boat called "Silkie". After some time trying to make that work, he transitioned into a role at Sitnasuak Native Corporation's Subsidiary, Bonanza Fuel where he dedicated 10 years. While working at Bonanza Fuel, he worked as a Fuel Truck Driver before retiring as the Fuel Truck Supervisor.

Currently, Ralph is happily retired and loves to spend as much time as possible at his cabin on the Flambeau River in the summer and going snow machining in the winter.