

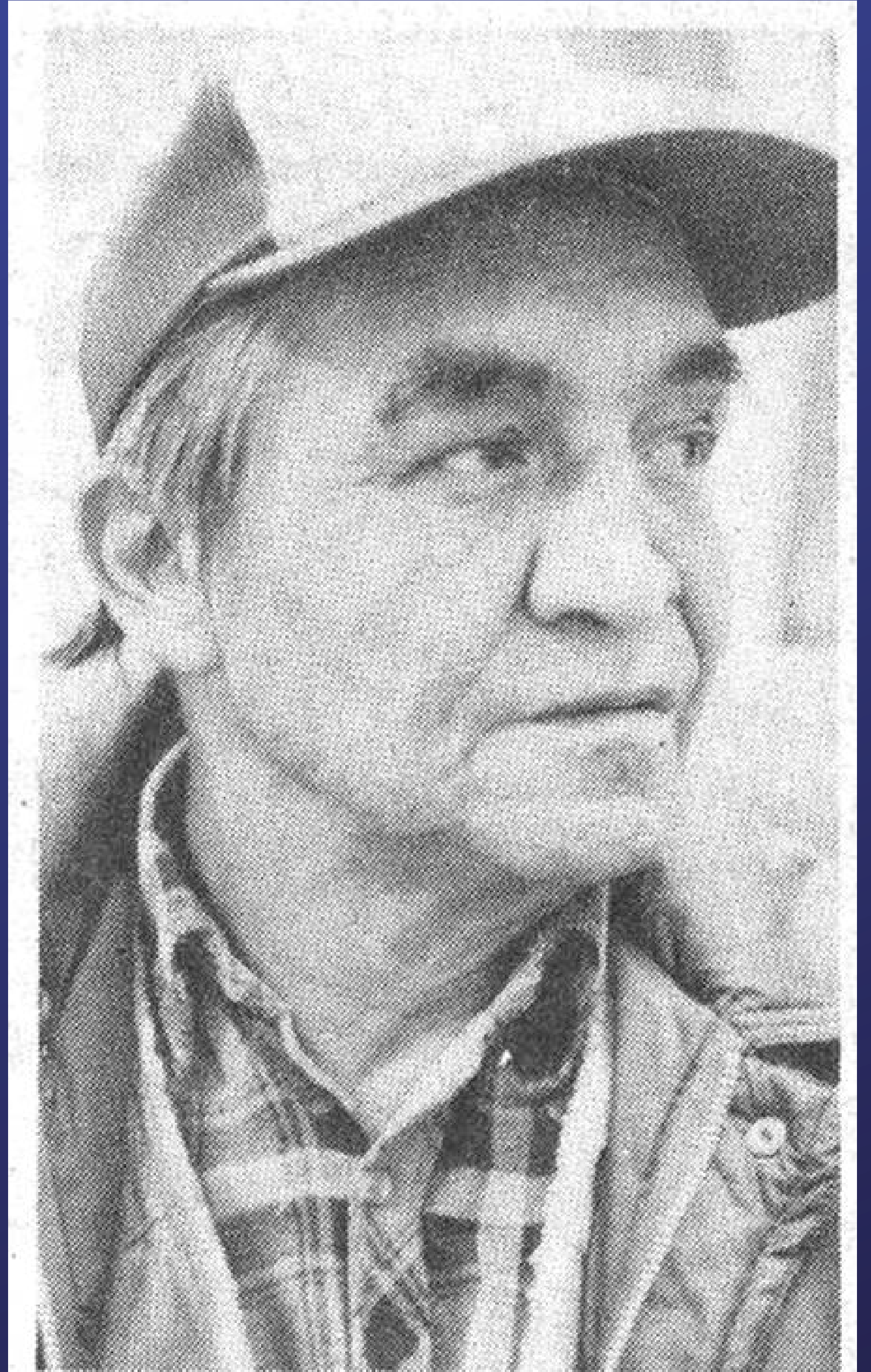
John Case

Champion of fishing rights

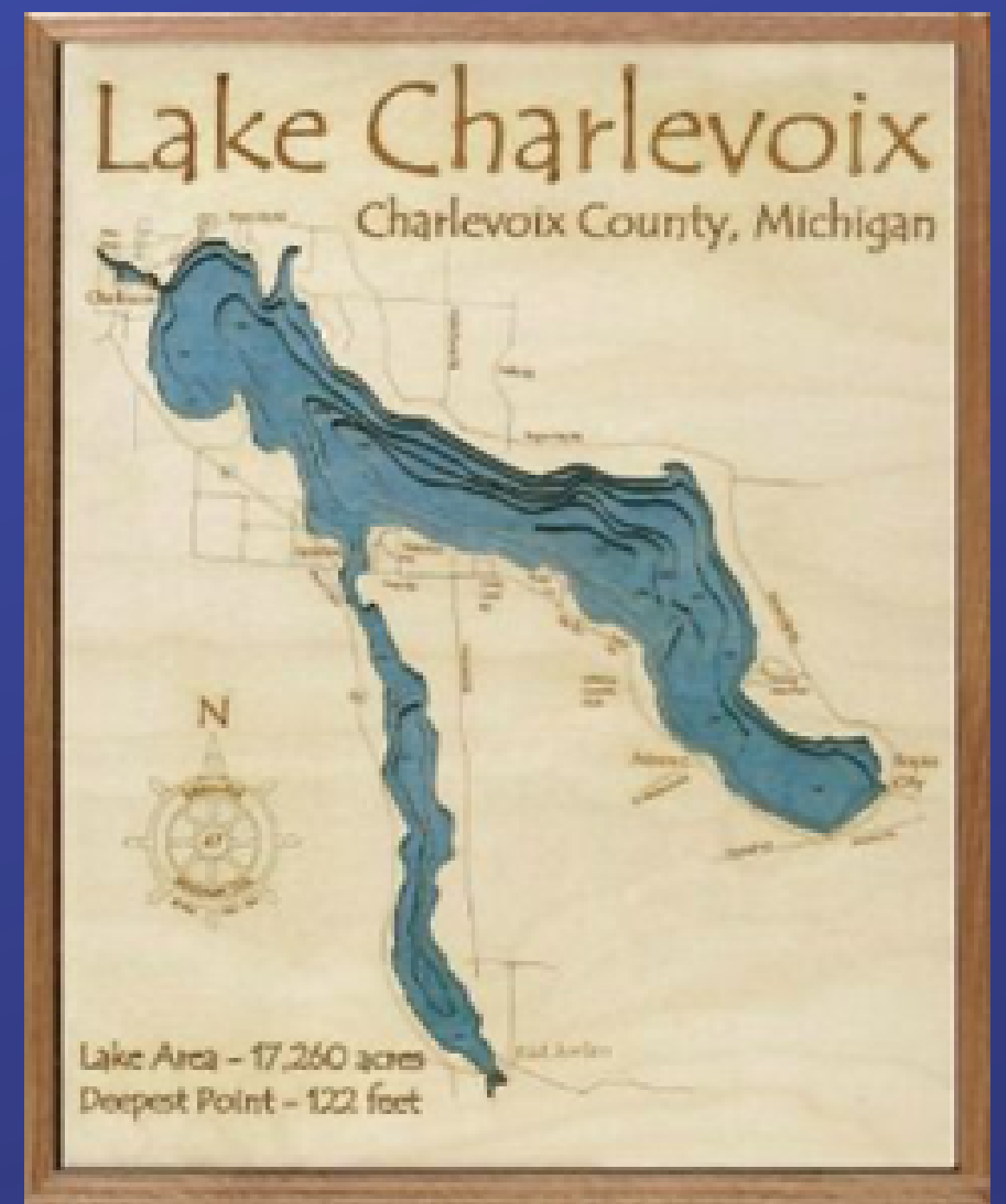
John was an avid commercial fisherman for the Odawa in the 1970s-90s.

He served in the Korean War as well. John fished the waters near his home of Charlevoix but experienced much trouble doing so. He

fished during an exceedingly difficult time when native fishermen and their treaty rights to fish were being contested by the State of Michigan and sports fishermen. The issue went all the way to federal court, where a judge ruled in favor of the tribes.



John Case



But LTBB Odawa did not have federal recognition at the time of the ruling, thus their fishermen were not protected. John fished regardless, knowing LTBB had the right to fish. He was harassed, attacked, and had his equipment destroyed. But he still fished. The LTBB community supported his and the tribe's right to fish. Fishermen like John helped to push LTBB to fight for federal reaffirmation of its federal status as an Indian tribe in the United States, which happened in 1994. Sadly, John died fishing in 1990.

References: LTBB Archives Director Eric Hemenway and The Way it Happened book by James M. McClurken

