

NAhtAsuutaaka' (White Shield)

November 2018

Volume 5

Issue 64a

Dorreen Yellow Bird, EditorSahnish65@gmail.com/701-421-2876

Chairman Mark Fox takes the reins of leadership of the Three Affiliated Tribe for another four years. (Photo by Karen Lonefight)



After days and months of indecision about the chairman's position with the tribe, Fox decides to take on the arduous task of leading the tribe at a crucial time in history. Fox contemplated staying home to be with his son, leaving problems of a chairman for an easier life he said, but when all was said and done, he listened to the people, including the elders, who wanted him to be chairman. *(Continued page 9)*



From the desk Fred Fox, Councilman,

East Segment, White Shield, ND 58540



Hello community members, relatives and elders,
I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving weekend. Family is always important and spending the holidays with our loved ones uplifts our spirit.

The community had a great turnout for the Segment Thanksgiving dinner. I couldn't remember the last time we had a crowd this big for a community event. We also had a great turnout for the Elder Thanksgiving dinner and we also heard an Update from the Chairman.

With this past election season over, there was a lot of positive changes and consistency in our government. The MHA Tribal government added a new member and she is also a very experienced council representative. Councilwoman Judy Brugh was elected to the Four Bears Segment. She is a very well-respected and intelligent leader. I'm very happy to have her join the council. Chairman Mark Fox was also re-elected for another four years. He has provided so much beneficial progress to all segments on the reservations and communities off the reservation. He and the council have also distributed over \$12,500 per member in disbursements for a total of \$200 million to the membership. Each member was also given for the first time health insurance. It is still a work in progress but it will be molded to our needs. I'm very excited to see what our next four years will bring the members of the MHA Nation. I know that under the leadership of Chairman Fox and the rest of the council, our community will thrive and development will continue to move forward. I'm very happy also that councilmen Mervin Packineau and Corey Spotted Bear were re-elected to the council. I know their communities are very lucky to have some motivated and caring council representatives.

I want to mention our biggest election winner and one of our proudest accomplishments, which is the election of Ruth Ann Buffalo to the ND Legislative House of Representatives. It's good to see one of our own win an election and help our Tribe fight for our rights to our land against the non-Indians.

Christmas is around the corner and our Segment Christmas Party will be bigger than last year and will be held at the new school on December 14th at 6pm. We will have a comedian again for the main entertainment. His name is Ryan McMahon and we will also have a performance by White Shield's very own pow-wow dance troupe. This will be powwow dancers from our White Shield community and it will be led by Jocy Bird Fox. Also each family will receive \$150 gift coupons for Walmart and Target. With that said, our Tribal disbursements will be released on December 14th which will \$1,000 to every enrolled member. Our elders will receive an additional \$2,000 around the same time. This should help everyone around the holidays!

This weekend the White Shield Varsity girls & boys teams will be traveling to Billings, MT for the All American Indian Shootout. They will be playing against Lame Deer, Plenty Coups, and St. Labre high schools. This should be an exciting time and a good experience for our young players. Both teams should have a great season this year. Our first home opener will be against Trenton Tigers on December 15th, hope to see everyone there supporting our kids!

I would also like to send my condolences to all the families have lost loved ones. I know it's been a hard time lately but we will stay strong in our small community. Where ever your travels lead you this holiday season, please be safe on the roads and take your time. Take care and God bless.

ALL AMERICAN INDIAN SHOOTOUT

HARDIN BULLDOGS JV
LODGE GRASS INDIANS JV
ST. LABRE BRAVES
PLENTY COUPS WARRIORS
LAME DEER MORNING STARS
NORTHERN CHEYENNE EAGLES
MANDAREE HIGH SCHOOL
WHITE SHIELD HIGH SCHOOL WARRIORS

RIMROCK AUTO ARENA
Dec. 6-8 2018

VENDER CONTACT: Evon Little Light, Jr - jrllittlelight@gmail.com - 406-679-6100

White Shield Warriors
 White Shield High School

White Shield Basketball 2018-19

November 30th @ Washburn- 4pm Girls Varsity only

December:

- 1 @ Turtle lake – 7:30pm Girls Varsity only
- 6, 7, 8 @ Billings, Montana All American Indian Shootout
- 15 Home vs Trenton 2pm JV boys/3:30 Varsity girls/5pm Varsity boys
- 17 White Shield @ Mandaree 4pm JV boys/ 6 Var. girls/7pm Var. boys
- 18 Home vs Williston T.C 4pm JV boys/5:30 Var. girls/Var. boys 7pm
- 20 White Shield @ Standing Rock time TBA Girls Varsity Boys Varsity

January:

- 3 Home vs Powers Lake 4:30 pm JV boys 6:00 pm Varsity Boys
- 4 McLean County Shootout @Max vs Underwood 4pm Varsity boys
- 5 McLean County Shootout @Garrison vs Washburn 1pm Varsity boys
- 8 Home vs Mandaree 4pm JV boys/ 6:00 Var. girls/7pm Var. boys
- 10 Home vs Parshall 4:30 JV boys/6pm Var. girls/7:30 Var. boys
- 12 @ Garrison 2:30 JV girls/4 JV boys/5:30 Var. girls/7pm Var. boys
- 15 Home vs New Town 3pm JV boys/5:30 Var. girls/7pm Var. boys
- 22 @ North Shore Plaza 5:45 Varsity girls/7pm Varsity boys
- 25 @ Alexander JH boys 5:30pm/Var. Boys 7pm
- 29 @ Solen 4pm JV boys/5:30 Var. girls/7pm Var. boys
- 31 Home vs Dunseith 4pm JV Boys 5:30 Varsity girls 7pm Varsity Boy

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TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL
COMMITTEE MEMBERS & AGENDA CONTACTS

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Chairman Randy Phelan
Member Cory Spotted Bear
Member Fred Fox
*Agenda Contact: TBD

Economic Committee:

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Member Cory Spotted Bear
Member Mervin Packineau
*Agenda Contact: Lori Henry (701) 627-8209 lorihenry@mhanation.com

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Member Mervin Packineau
Member Monica Mayer
*Agenda Contact: Bari Lynn Everett (701) 627-8154 barilyneverett@mhanation.com

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Member Fred Fox
Member Monica Mayer
*Agenda Contact: TBD

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Vice Chairman Randy Phelan
Executive Secretary Fred Fox
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*Agenda Contact: Lori Henry (701) 627-8209 lorihenry@mhanation.com

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Chairman V. Judy Brugh
Member Monica Mayer
Member Fred Fox
*Agenda Contact: TBD

Natural Resources Committee:

Chairman Randy Phelan
Member Fred Fox
Member V. Judy Brugh
*Agenda Contact: TBD

Office of the Executive Secretary

Culture is Cool engages students with Native culture

By Tony Lone Fight, Multi Media Specialist



Students from around the Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara Nation got a different brand of education at this year's Culture is Cool event. In its second year, about 400 students attended this year's event held Wednesday, November 7, 2018. The gathering took advantage of the new White Shield School, which at the time, hadn't even held regular classes. The spacious gym and modern classrooms were well-suited to the event.

Culture is Cool is organized by Tribal Education Department and its aim was to bring the students together with speakers and activities that are based in Native American culture.

"Our culture and languages are transformative. They affect and empower us. With this event, I hope to start cultural 'fires' in students, igniting their desire to learn, grow and excel," said Tribal Education Director Dr. Ruth Swaney.

Dancing Eagle Perkins opened the event with a prayer and song and Chairman Mark Fox welcomed the students to the day-long event.

"It was great that Chairman Fox made time in his schedule for our event. It was the day after he was elected and he was already back to work," Dr. Swaney said. Councilman Fred Fox of White Shield's district also welcomed the students to the new school and to the community at-large.

"I'm glad both these leaders made time for our children and showed their commitment to education," Dr. Swaney said.

The event also highlighted the accomplishments of tribal member Helen Gough. She generously started the Helen Gough Scholarship for higher education and also helped established the Three Affiliated Tribes Museum. Gough's native name was Young Otter Woman and she was born in 1904 in Nishu.

There were many other speakers and topics: Dora Gwin, Marty Young Bear and Dr. Brad Kroupa represented Hidatsa, Nueta (Mandan) and Sahnish (Arikara); Justin Deegan talked about Native media; Mary Baker covered traditional gardening, Cheyenne Brady, Shoni Schimmel, Nikki Pitre provided motivational speeches and information on staying drug and alcohol free.

Keynote speaker was Matika Wilbur and she spoke to the students about how powerful a student movement is and how important it is for the students to know their culture. (For those who didn't see her speak, Wilbur has a TedTALK on YouTube.)

MHA Nation's Tribal Business Council donated generously for door prizes and the students also shared a turkey and ham lunch.

"Yesterday was probably one of the best days I've had -- to be surrounded by youth and indigenous influencers and leaders was powerful. It was the first time ever talking to a big crowd," said Mandaree School student Terran Poitra on Facebook. She spoke to the whole assembly. The experience was emotional for Poitra but community members said that getting

emotional is not a bad thing: “I was told yesterday when I speak it is powerful, when I cried, the ancestors walked into the room.”



LEFT: Matika Wilbur, Key Note speaker; Margaret Landin, Sahnish Language Coordinate; and Dr. Ruth Swaney, Tribal Education Department Director. RIGHT: Shoni Schimmel, Dora Gwin and Jayli Fimbres.



Benita Spotted Elk, Wayne Fox, Sara Young Bird, Nikki Pitre, Royce Freeman, Matika Wilbur, Judith Danks,(back) Mary Baker, Jayli Fimbres, Dora Gwin, Barbara DeSautel, (back) Tony Lone Fight, Thomas Plenty Chief, Jr., Shannon Uses The Knife, MC Chance Rush, Annie Antonia, Kateri Hale, Deb Hosie, Wilbur Fox, Chance Rush's DJ, Donovan Abby, Margaret Landin and Dr. Ruth Swaney.

White Shield Elders Celebrate Thanksgiving Dinners



Fed Fox and Austin Gillette visit while waiting for drawings to be completed.



It was a time for turkey and ham at White Shield with the elders, segment and the tribe. The weather was good for travel so there were many celebrations in different places on the reservation.

Families came home for reunions and dinners in many homes at White Shield.

Duane and Bonnie Fox visit while waiting for Elders Thanksgiving dinner



Jackie and Junior Morsette join White Shield Elders for Thanksgiving dinner.



Chairman Mark Fox visits with relatives of the late Blanche White Eagle, friend of Jerry White.



Savannah Perkins, 6, at Segement Thanksgiving meal. She poses with her new Holiday dress.



Lujuanna LaCroix looks over table prepared for Elders Thanksgiving lunch. On right is June Eagle, Jody Kylo and Cleo Charging.



Big Buck Contest
Home of the Champions
December 8, 2018
(9am-2pm)
scoring
Memorial Hall

White Tail Only
1st place--\$400.00
2nd place--\$300.00
3rd place--\$200.00
4th place--\$100.00

Registered 2018 tags
Rifle only

Contact Chad Morsette for details
(701) 421-6567

Sponsored by the Twin Buttes South Segment

Announcements

MANDAN HIDATSA ARIKARA NATION

SCIENCE



FAIR

SAVE THE DATE!
JANUARY 7TH
GRADES 3RD-12TH
AT NORTHERN LIGHTS, NEW TOWN

Medicare & You

Tero Building New Town, ND
December 11, 2018 Starting @ 1 pm

65 yrs. old or wanting to know more about Medicare services?
Questions or concerns about billing, coverage plans, etc.
Grab a friend and please attend.

Veterans Christmas Party

December 9, 2018 (Sunday)

3 PM

New Town Civic Center

All Veterans and their families are Welcome
Meal, Santa Claus, Drum,
Gifts for Veterans



Sponsored by Little Shell Ladies Auxiliary Unit #300



Gonzalez Comes Home to Celebrate Veterans Day in White Shield



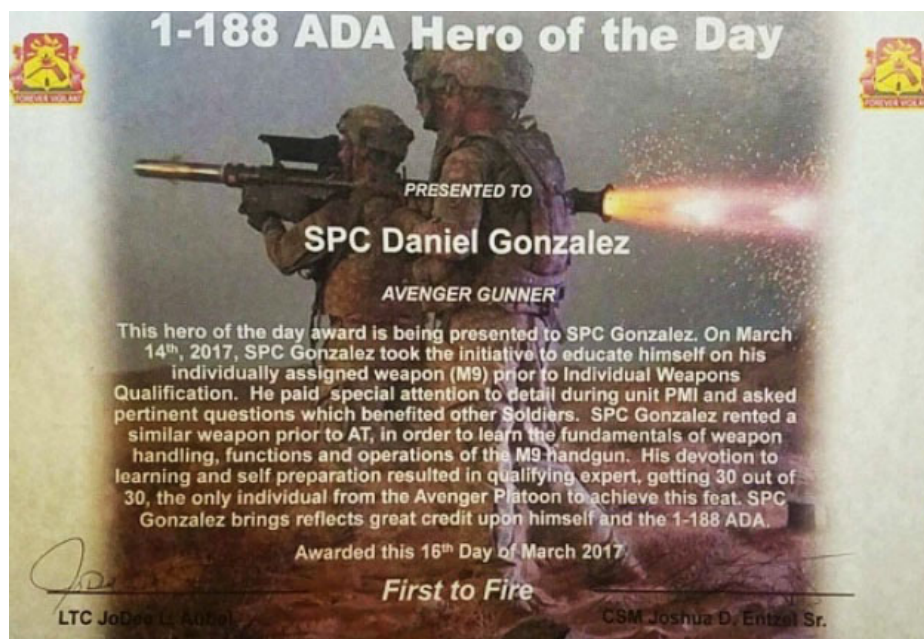
On November 16, 2018 Specialist Daniel Gonzalez of the 1-188th ADA, was welcomed home by Major General Alana Dohrmann, his staff, and family members in Bismarck, ND. SPC Gonzalez joined the North Dakota Army National Guard right out of High School in 2012. With 6 years of honorable service he was activated for 3 months for Operation Rolling Prairie. Then deployed for two years in support of Operation Noble Eagle defending the National Capital Region.

SPC Gonzalez has a family with a beautiful daughter. His family is the Yellow Bird and Young Bird family and is the son of Maria Gonzalez and has two brothers Benito Gonzalez and James Felix. Grandparents Linda Gonzalez (Yellow Bird), Tiodoro Gonzalez, and great grandparents Magdalen Yellow Bird and the late Willard Yellow Bird Sr. who served in the Navy.

SPC Gonzalez is now spending time with his family here in North Dakota and will then back into school and it is his

goal is to become an officer.

Our grandson is the oldest grandchild and having him being away was very terrifying for me and we now are so grateful to our Great Father who watched over him and brought him safely home. My heart and prayers go out to parents/grandparents in their worries for their children/grandchildren.



(Pictures continue from front "Swearing In.)



Fred Fox, White Shield Representative and Randy Phelan, Mandaree Representative, watch the swearing in of Chairman Fox, Cory Spotted Bear, Mervin Packineau and new council woman, Judy Brugh..



New Town's Northern Lights Hall is filled with people waiting for the swearing of Chairman Fox, representatives Cory Spotted Bear, Merv Packineau, and new councilwoman Judy Brugh. A lunch was served for all attend ceremony.

George H.W. Bush was a Great Man

By Dorreen Yellow Bird, Editor



As I worked on News Journal 64, President Bush's funeral played in the background. It has been a long and sad day and a day of so much contrast. Here is a 94 year-old man who was a one-term president because he said and promised us "Read my lips, no new taxes." We didn't elect him president because some felt he lied to us. I choke on those words remembering all the lies our current president tosses recklessly in all directions. I hope that we get through this presidency and never make this mistake again.

I was so innocent about government in those day.

During President Bush administration, I worked in Washington D. C. and on "The Hill" as they called the capital. I worked with a national organization privately funded to provide some basic health care to minorities. I represented the Native American component as you probably guessed.

One year we had a national conference to teach the public about our program. We invited corporations, organizations and state and national public speakers who might help with funding. Our keynote speakers was the then Vice President George H. W. Bush. Being from North Dakota I was just getting used to seeing famous people, I was thrilled to listen to Vice President Bush speak.

I was assigned to signing in people at the conferences. After the keynote speaker Bush finished his speech, his entourage surrounded him and they started for the door with Secret Service, in front and back of him. I was excited. They would be passing right by my sign-in table. I grabbed my camera and prepared to get it ready to take his picture when I dropped it on the desk. I looked up embarrassed and frustrated and he was in front of me. I knew I would I missed my chance to take his picture because the entourage was moving again. I tried to move around the table and get ahead of him. The Secret Service immediately were there in front of me. So I stopped, resigned. I missed my shot. The Vice President saw what was happening and he made the Secret Service stand back and stood and allowed me to take his picture. Than with a smile, he turned and left with his group. The girls with me were as amazed as I was. I kept his picture with my things as I made all those moves around the country and unfortunately, I lost my famous picture of him, but I do remember his small act of kindness.

When he ran for president, I voted for him because I remember this man who had depth and did what he believed.

Now as I hear more and more about him, (I know we say good things about those who have passed) but I believe he was the genuine article.

Maybe hearing about how a president should act; what a great man really is, Trump might least pause and remember he represents the country not himself and his own, selfish interests.

Ft Berthold Shows Well in the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nevada October 22 - 28th

Each December, the top 15 contestants in bareback riding, steer wrestling, team roping, saddle bronc riding, tie-down roping, barrel racing and bull riding qualify to compete at the Wrangler NFR. During the 10 days of competition, the Wrangler NFR transforms the look and feel of the "Entertainment Capital of the World." **All photo by Karen Lonefight, who has been specializing in action photograph.**

Ft. Berthold tribal competitors are:



World Champion Barrel Racer, Kate Miller. (Caddo –Arikara)



Stolei Perkins –Fredericks placed 6th in Junior Barrel racing



Merv Packineau and Don Charging compete in Team Roping.



Marty Young Bear, Saddle Bronc (above)



Team Roping (top right and down) are:
 Jesse Chase & Toby Cummins
 Daylyn Dank, Jr Break Away
 Cassy Stone and wife Eagleton Hassin



Obituaries



Cheryl Yellow Bird (Buffalo Bull Woman) was born January 2, 1950 in Elbowoods, ND to Willard and Magdalene YellowBird. She grew up in White Shield, North Dakota, where she graduated high school. Cheryl attended college in Minnesota and California. Cheryl graduated with a degree in Business Administration. She worked as a legal administrator for Hennepin County judge, in Minneapolis, MN, She went onto work for companies such as Northwestern Bell, in human resource management at organizations such as the Indian Health

Board and Ain Dah Yung Center.

In her free time, she enjoyed spending time with her friends and family. Her weekends usually included a trip to the local YMCA, then breakfast where she would highlight newspaper posts of which estate she wanted to attend. Cheryl was a very hardworking, humble, and caring person. For many years she was a dedicated foster mother to many Native America youth in Minnesota. A few of those children formed a close family bond and continued to be in her life. She played many different motherly roles. She was also loved by many people within the pow wow circle. Many different drum groups such as Eyabay, Iron Boy and Midnight Express called her mom as well. She was always welcoming them into her home and life. She was very proud to be a pow wow mom and a world champion traditional dancer.

Cheryl called Minneapolis home for over 30 years. It was not until 2012 when she fell ill with a very serious lung disease that she moved back home to North Dakota.

She was not expected to overcome her illness but being the fighter she was, she continued to move mountains. After losing her son in 2015, she struggled with coping with her loss, losing one of her children was very hard for her.

For the past few years, she spent her time at home with family. She loved spending any chance she could with her grandchildren and great grandchildren Cheryl was very proud of all her grandchildren, She loved being a grandma and she knew they all loved her back.

Cheryl is survived by her two children Shelley St. John and Philip "Gee" Yellowbird, her mother, Magdalen YellowBird, her siblings Nelrene YellowBird, Linda Gonzales (Dan), Willard YellowBird (Donna), Dennis YellowBird, Michael YellowBird, Thomas YellowBird (Rita), Elroy YellowBird (Lenny), Monte YellowBird, Marlon YellowBird, Jessie YellowBird, Rodney YellowBird, Cory YellowBird and Loren YellowBird. Grandchildren Melissa Tiger (Hill), Sabrina Warren (Current), Christopher BrownEagle, Justin St. John, Amanda BrownEagle, Philip (Baby gee) St. John, Pacer Gamst, Tresten YellowBird, Shandon Gamst, Catera St. John, Geno YellowBird, Gene Nyte YellowBird, Statten St. John, Oaklyn St. John, Danen St. John,

Terry St. John Jr.; Great Grandchildren, Ryann Warren, William Gavin Warren, Gunner Warren, Cheryl Tiger, Kaizley Tiger, Lenaya Tiger, Robert BrownEagle II, Amilliarie (Milly) Benjamin, and Tasheena St. John

Proceeded in death by her grandmother Nellie Yellowbird, father Willard Sr., brother Charles YellowBird, son Terry St. John, granddaughter Gianna YellowBird and great grandson Kayson Tiger.



Cheryl LaCroix

Cheryl LaCroix, 66, White Shield, died on Saturday, November 10, 2018 at Sanford Hospital in Bismarck. Funeral services were held on Saturday at 11:00 am at the Ralph Wells Jr. Memorial Complex in White Shield. Wake services were held on Friday beginning at 5:00 pm at the complex. Burial was at the Episcopal Cemetery in White Shield.



Jacqueline Blue Earth, 63, Aberdeen, SD, died on Friday, November 9, 2018 at an Aberdeen hospital. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday at 11:00 am at the Ralph Wells Jr. Memorial Complex in White Shield. A wake service will be held on Tuesday beginning at 5:00 pm at the church. Burial will be at St. Andrew's Catholic Cemetery in White Shield.

Jacqueline Gale Blue Earth was born July 18, 1955 to Richard and Josephine (Reed) Blue Earth in Garrison ND. She grew up in Garrison and New Town. She attended Fort Yates Boarding School and graduated in 1973.

In August 1977 she had her daughter, Fayette Blue Earth. She decided to go to school and she received an Associates of Science as a Medical Secretary from Fort Berthold Community College. She decided to further her education and received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the University of North Dakota Grand Forks in 2002.

She moved to Bullhead South Dakota and taught at the Rock Creek Elementary School for several years. She became a member of the small community.

Jacqueline then moved to Aberdeen South Dakota to be with her daughter and grandsons and started working for Bureau of Indian Affairs as a Land Title Examiner and continued to work there until her passing.

Jacqueline enjoyed pow-wows, bingo, visiting her friends and family, she enjoyed the many conversations she had with her fellow coworkers. She loved her Denver Broncos and was an avid

admirer of Elvis. She enjoyed taking road trips and enjoying her free time.

She loved her family and enjoyed watching her grandsons, Zayne and Alexander, grow up. She enjoyed being a big part of their lives.

She will be missed by many.

Daughter- Fayette (Blue Earth) Goehring, Grandsons- Zayne Gordon and Alexander Charles Goehring, Brother: Eldon (Jessica) Reed, Frank Reed, Gerald (Rosa) Reed, Sisters: Felicia (Tiny) Reed Nephew- Loren Blue Earth and many others that she thought of as brothers and sisters.

Precedent in Death: Parents Richard Blue Earth Sr. Josephine (Reed) Blue Earth; Brothers: Milton Reed, Anthony (Johnny) Blue Earth, Sisters: Willa Jean and Janice Blue Earth; Son in law: Anthony (Tony) Goehring.



Reverend Melda Lambert, 88, New Town, died Sunday, November 25, 2018 in a Stanley nursing home.

Funeral: Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 10 a.m. at Parshall Veterans Memorial (Red) Hall in Parshall

Wake: Wednesday beginning at 5 p.m. in the memorial hall

Family and Friends Gathering: Wednesday from 2-4 p.m. at Langhans Funeral Home, Parshall

Burial: New Town Cemetery, New Town



Mary Elk Mary Elk, 95, New Town, died Monday, November 26, 2018 at a Stanley nursing home. Mary “Sweetgrass” (Macuah Ca), was born July 14, 1923 in Elbowoods to William Conklin and Ella Many Ribs. She was a member of the Chicken Clan and a child of the Waterbuster Clan. Mary was the last of her siblings.

Mary worked hard, starting when she was 13 years old. She held many jobs throughout her life which included housekeeping for Dr. Wilson, Jim and Deanie Iverson, and the LeBeau family; as well as, the offices of Hans Walker and IHS. Her employment continued at Elbowoods Hospital, Northrup Grumman and at 3 Tribes

Stoneware. Most recently she worked at the casino as a porter and coat check. When she lived in Rapid City, she worked at the bowling alley and at a clothing store.

She enjoyed spending time with her family at gatherings. Her hobbies included beading, quill work and creating star quilts. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Saints. She also took an active role in the Antelope Society and Enemy Woman Society. Her gentle nature and kind smile will be missed by those who knew her. Blessed be her memory among us.

She is survived by her daughters, Betty Peterson, Victoria Conklin Elk and Yvonne Louise Brave Hawk; niece, Georgianna Danks; Nephew, Malcom Bruce, Sr.; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren and many cousins. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, all her siblings and sons, Harold and Joseph.



John H. (Howard) Morsette, Wanbdi Cikala (Little Eagle) Made his journey to the spirit world on November 30, 2018. He was born to Anna Mandan and Fred Morsette in Elbowoods, ND October 26, 1940, he was a member of the Low Cap Clan. John started school in Elbowoods then attended Catholic boarding school at Stephan SD where he excelled at running long distance.

After graduating John entered the Navy and did two tours in the Vietnam conflict where he was a Chief medical corpsman for the Marines. It was said he did more than one tour so his younger brothers didn't have to go over. John spent 20 years in the Navy and was posted in a number of places in the world such as Japan,

Hawaii, and San Diego. He retired as a Chief Petty Officer. He was awarded numerous medals. John was a lifetime Member of VFW 9061 of New Town ND, Franklin D. Chopper Post 61 of Brockton, MT, Myron B. Johnson/Nathan J. Goodiron Post 271 of Mandaree, ND. He strongly supported and encouraged Veterans where ever he encountered them and was proud to be a veteran. While in the Navy he earned his master's degree in 1980. John was a strong believer in education, also while in the navy he participated in several marathons.

He returned to the Fort Berthold reservation in 1983. John was a very loving person and when he first came back he was always hugging everyone. Many thought "what's up with this guy?" but that didn't deter him. John continue to be loving, caring all his life with a smile, hug and lovely greetings to all he knew and met.

John met Rose Eagle in 1983 at a pow wow in Poplar, MT and they became a couple. John moved to Fort Peck and they were married on November 23, 1984. They just recently celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary.

They had two children Leanda and Thomas. Also 5 grandchildren William Chopper, Mark (Sam) Eder, Keionna Frederick, Michael John Eder and Danny Eder; two great granddaughters Amara Peterson, Helen, two great grandsons, Demetri, Hance Chopper, and one on the way. He was extremely close with his grandsons. He loved his family beyond measure and was actively involved in their education and sports activities. The whole family took many trips and just enjoyed spending time together.

Once back home he continued his spiritual journey by learning traditional ways from elders especially Joe Flying by in Little Eagle, SD. He began to participate in Wi Wang Waci there. He continued to Wi Wang Waci throughout his life at Sitting Bull and Brave Thunder.

John became a person held in high regard in his community the Fork Peck Reservation, as well as Fort Berthold, and throughout Indian Country. A relative wrote of him "John was a man of integrity, he was well respected and inspired people to achieve their highest realm. He set the bar high and people wanted to model their lives and be like him." He was asked by many to do naming ceremonies, also to pray for those in need of prayers.

In Poplar John went to work with IHS and when he retired, he had over 40 years of service to his country. John received a special recognition in Washington DC for his service. Through his many years of service, John received many awards and medals, including a Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (1st – May, 1977) – (Second – Aug, 1981), R.V.N. Service Medal with (3) Bronze Stars (Campaign – 12, 13, 14), R.V.N. Campaign Medal, R.V.N. Armed Forces Noritorious Unit Commendation – Civil Action Color Palm (Sep, 1969 – May, 1970), Navy Achievement Medal with Combat Distinguished Device, and Combat Action Ribbon.

He was an avid reader and you would always see him with a book. He enjoyed visiting and going to casinos to play the slot machines especially in Las Vegas, NV. John had 36 yrs. of sobriety.

He was a wonderful, supportive, and loving uncle to his sister and brothers' children as well as his other extended family. He showed great courage, strength, and bravery through his illness never complaining and still having a smile for all who saw him.

He is survived by his wife Rose Morsette, daughters Leanda Birthmark, Vicky Morsette and son Bobby Morsette. Three brothers, Jerome Morsette, Eagle Plume Mandan, Sr and Cordell Morsette. One sister Johanna Morsette, Maternal Uncle Bob O'Brien and a paternal aunt Rose Drapeau. Niece and Nephews; Marietta, David, Eric, Bucky, Leann, John Jake, Jordan, Jeri, Anne, Bernadine Morsette.

He was adopted in traditional way by several individuals the first was Freddy Sitting dog, Mr. & Mrs. Pat Adams, Eunice Alfrey and family, Jerome Fourstar Family, Darcy Anaquad, Fred McGeshick & Family, Benji GrayHawk & Family, Bailey Family, Kidder Family, Ron and Raqiba Luchau, Connie Fasthorse and family, and many numerous family members too many to name.

He was proceeded into the spirit world by his father Fred Morsette, mother Anna Mandan, son Thomas Morsette, one sister Bernadine Yellow wolf, his maternal uncles; Bernard Mandan, Richard Mandan, Victor Mandan, Adam T. Mandan, Aunts, Eloise Johnson, Rose Marie Mandan Baker, Alfreda Goodiron, Paternal uncles, Charles Fox, George Morsette, Lawrence Fox, John Fox, Bob Fox, Matt Morsette, Alfred Morsette. Aunts, Melvine Everett, Gladys Soules, Carrie Morgan.

We apologize if we have left anyone out.