

To the Editor:

I am a tribal member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and thought it may be of interest to others to print the enclosed poem, "My Grandpa," written by my daughter, along with a short explanation.

Jamie A. Katzeek, daughter of Tribal member Lori A. (Martin) Katzeek and granddaughter of the late Ernest Gene Martin, Tribal member, is soon to be a published poet. Jamie wrote about her feelings for her grandfather, who passed away when she was 10.

Jamie's poem, "My Grandpa," has been chosen from a large number of nationwide submissions as one of the most creative and has earned a page in the 1999 edition of "The Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans." We are very proud of Jamie. Besides this honor, Jamie was on the Honor Roll; is active in choir, band and jazz band (she plays tenor sax); is a starter for the girls Glacier Bear basketball team; and plays softball on a team with her mom in the summertime.

Lori A. (Martin) Katzeek

My Grandpa

By Jamie Katzeek

You were funny,
You were generous,
You were loving.
You showed me how to pick
salmon berries.
You taught me to eat peaches with
cream.
I thought the world of you.
I thought you were swell.
I think sometimes,
You must have been half of my
spirit,
You were the greatest.

I'll never forget that sad, sad day.
The day I found out you were sick.
You went away then came back,
But you could no longer speak to
me.
STROKE!
Then life went on for awhile.

You went away again
to a hospital.
I followed you there
to that awful place.
I always believed you would come
back home.



Jamie Katzeek

You never did.

One day, I woke from a deep, dark
sleep.

Only to find that you had left me.
I didn't know what to do.
I didn't know what to say.
If I had known,
I would not have left.
I would have stayed by your side.
'Til the very end.

I graduated my eighth grade
without you.
I played my first basketball game
without you.
I will graduate from high school
without you.
And yet, I know you're there,
Somewhere.

Now,
I pick salmon berries,
All alone.
I eat peaches with cream,
All alone.
And yet,
I don't think I am alone.
I know you've got to be here,
Somewhere.
Without you here,
It's like I've lost half of my spirit.

I write this poem in memory of
you.

I hope that you are proud
Of the good things I do.
I will miss you.
And I love you with all my heart
Always and Forever.

New Business Opens

By Pamela R. (Fisher) Keller

Greetings and smiles! I am a Siletz Tribal member (roll #492) and I recently opened a travel business called "All About Travel Inc." I reside in Palmer, Alaska. My hours are 7 days a week, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Today, most airline travel is ticketless travel, which means you get a confirmation code to travel and do not have to worry about losing a ticket. In the event that you may need a paper ticket, Mr. Travel does the ticketing.

I received my training with Mr. Travel in Chicago. They have been in business for 50 years. I am an independent contractor and travel agent, and can do bookings anywhere in the world. Air, car, hotel, packages, cruises, etc. - I will always quote the lowest fare that is available to me at the time of your travel. Keep in mind, the more advance notice you can give, the cheaper the fares.

I would feel honored to have your business and would be happy to assist you with your travel needs, whether they are business or leisure. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks to Sharon Edenfield, William Dockstader, Richard Persons, Connie Hoffman, Bunni Snook, Tess Green, Terry Fisher, Carolyn Fisher, Dave Litchy, Lonnie Cordova, Bev Youngman, Kelly Ball, LaVera Simmons, and Randy Austin for utilizing my services.

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Volunteer Opportunity

Students at Chemeketa Community College are starting a Native American club. They need members, volunteers and donations. They would like to start dance, regalia, and drumming classes. They also need positive role models to show the younger generations that our people can succeed.

If you would like to help, contact Renee Zeyen at 503-581-7882.