

## Gerri Jordan – 1933-2011

She was born July 11, 1933, to Anita (Reed) and Harry Gerard in Florence, Ore.

Gerri spent her life dedicated to raising her children and taking care of her family. In her later years, her family couldn't help but return the favor.

Gerri spent her life in Northwest Oregon and was an Elder of the Siletz Tribe. She loved Elvis and reruns of *Walker Texas Ranger*. She also enjoyed

a good game of bingo, challenging word games and relaxing drives in the country.

She is survived by her son, Jerry (Michelle) Myrland of Lincoln City; her sister, Mary Joyce Gerard of Kentucky; brothers Jim Cook of Salem, Ore., and Raymond Gerard of California; grandchildren Jeremy Myrland and Joshua Myrland of Portland and Jennifer Myrland of Lincoln City.

Her son, Carl Myrland, died earlier in 2005.

A funeral service and potluck were held at the Siletz Tribal Community Center on June 1, with burial following at the Paul Washington Cemetery in Siletz. A visitation was held prior to the service.

Arrangements were entrusted to Bate-man Funeral Home.



## Samuel Cody Singer – 1937-2011

Samuel Cody Singer was born May 21, 1937, in Kayenta, Ariz. He died May 12, 2011, at his residence in Salem, Ore., surrounded by his family and relatives. He was a longtime resident of Salem.

Sam recently had retired from Chemawa Indian School, an off-reservation Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) boarding school, concluding 15 years of federal service. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church for 55 years, where he was baptized and married.

Sam was very proud of his American Indian heritage and exhibited Native pride in many ways. He was a full-blooded Navajo enrolled in the Western Agency of the Navajo Nation. He was from the To'aah'ni' (Near the Water) Clan born for the To'dichii'nii' (Bitter Water) Clan. His late parents are Clifford Sr. and Clara (Coleman) Singer of (To'denas zhii) Kayenta.

Two of Sam's paternal uncles, Oscar and Richard Singer Sr., were Navajo Code Talkers who served in World War II and who both posthumously received Silver Medals for their service as U.S. Marines. Sam carried great pride knowing his uncles and many Navajo people served proudly in the armed services as the tradition continues today.

The Navajo language (Dine Bizaad) is his first language and he spoke it fluently on a daily basis with his wife, Irene, at home and among fellow Navajo speakers. He often streamed online to listen to KTNN, the voice of the Navajo Nation, to stay connected with his cultural roots.

Sam was a product of Navajo (Kayenta Boarding School) and BIA (Chemawa) schools. In the 1950s, he attended Chemawa as part of a pilot program for Navajo students. Upon completion, he continued to reside and work in the Salem area.

On April 16, 1960, he married his Navajo sweetheart, Irene Rose (Billy) Singer of (Kin Hozhoni) Manuelito, N.M. This year marked their 51<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary.

Sam worked at a variety of local Salem establishments and at Boise Cascade Lumber Mill in Millersburg, Ore., prior to his federal service at Chemawa. He supported four children who attended Salem-Keizer public schools and two daughters who graduated from the University of Oregon.

On Jan. 26, 2011, Sam tragically lost his youngest son, Morales, who was 37 years old and the caregiver to his retired

parents and three children. Sam was taking care of his three teenage grandchildren at the time of his passing.

Sam was head of household and always was on the move with household duties such as cooking, cleaning, laundry, grocery shopping, driving his wife and grandchildren to their destinations and accompanying his wife shopping, in addition to a whole host of other things he truly enjoyed.

He had a passion for sports (professional wrestling, Oregon Duck football, Portland Trailblazers basketball, pro football's Washington Redskins), a love of classic rock-'n'-roll/country/traditional Navajo music, Navajo Tribal and mainstream public affairs and was a fan of the classics (The Marx Brothers/war/western/Elvis movies and cartoons).

He enjoyed the beauty of the State of Oregon, especially the Oregon Coast, the high deserts of Central Oregon and his other home, the Navajo Indian reservation in the southwestern United States.

Sam is survived by his wife (Irene); children Marcie (Josh), Mike (Carolyn) and Michelle; grandchildren Cody, Elijah, Jaliene and Shaelee; siblings Anna Clitso, Clifford Singer Jr. (Inez), Rena Jeff, Ray-

mond Singer (Roselyn), Ruby Singer, Ida Mae Smith (Ray) and Floyd Singer (Ada); and many, many relatives who span the western United States.

He is preceded in death by his son (Morales Clifford Singer), his parents (Clifford Sr. and Clara Singer) and brother (James Singer).

To honor him, a public visitation was held May 17 at Howell-Edwards-Doerksen Funeral Home. A celebration of life service was held at Calvary Baptist Church in Salem on May 18. A lunch was served following the service.

A grave site service was held May 20 at Belcrest Memorial Park in Salem. For online and audio condolences, please visit HED-FH.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for contributions to the Morales Clifford Singer Memorial Fund at U.S. Bank of Oregon in his honor for his grandchildren or in his memory to Irene Singer, 4153 Vernon St. NE, Salem, OR 97305.

Although Sam may not be of physical body, he is now with his son and relatives, with his Lord and Savior in heaven above living on in our hearts and in our memories. His smile, his laugh and his presence will be greatly missed.



Photo by Diane Rodriguez

Members of the boys' basketball team at Siletz Valley Early College Academy stand with a championship banner after receiving their championship rings during an assembly on May 26. Tribal Council Chairman Delores Pigsley and Tribal Council members Loraine Butler and Tina Retasket helped present the rings. Team members, from 1 to r: Jacob Anderson, Corey Loving Jr. San Poil Whitehead, Bo Johnson, Steve Lindstrom, Jon Lee, Erick Rice, Dakota Burgins, Coach Dave Morgan, Chris Garza, Jake Carr and Austin Lancaster. Not pictured: Braxton Morford, Jeff Sweet and Coach Mike Fisher.