

LaVera Marie Simmons – 1931-2018

Our Beloved Aunt Babe

LaVera Marie Simmons, “Babe,” was born to Frederick and Augusta Simmons in September 1931. She was the last of six siblings: Harding, June, Mary “Dolly,” Calvin and Franklin.

She was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Marie; great-niece, Taylor Erin Hatch; and a great-great-nephew, Camden Taylor Flock.

She leaves many cousins, nieces and nephews, greats, great-greats and great-great-greats.

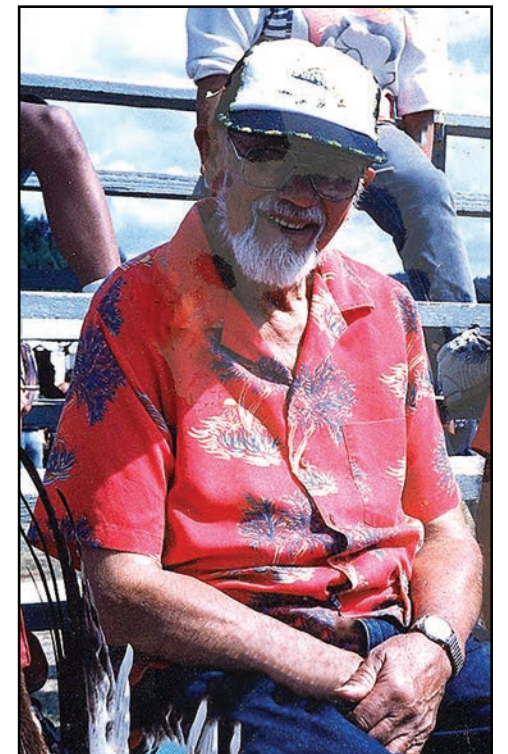
Aunt Babe helped raise three generations of children. She was loved by her family, friends and those who knew her. She worked her whole life, travelling to and from Alaska while working in loggings camps with Pam and Ron Keller; once to Cranbrook, Alberta, Canada to work; at Chemawa Indian School; and in local hospitals as a cook and food service person for many years until her retirement.

She loved laughing, talking, working outside with plants and shrubbery, trapping moles and traveling in Montana and Alaska with family.



Courtesy photo

LaVera Marie Simmons



Courtesy photo

Alton Ivan Butler

Lindsey Frank John Sr. – 1948-2018

Lindsey Frank John Sr. died June 2, 2018, at his home in Prineville, Ore. He was born in Toledo, Ore., on Dec. 23, 1948, to Clark and Eva John.

Lindsey worked as a welder in Vancouver, Wash., until he retired to Prineville in 2008. He was an avid golfer, hunter and fisherman. He spent many days on the golf course with his son, Lindsey Jr., and loved to spend time with his family and friends.

Lindsey was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers William “Junior,” Johnny and LeRoy; and his sister Gylene.

He is survived by his brothers David and Ronald; his sisters Josephine and Eliz-

abeth (Liz); his sons Lindsey Jr., Richard and Tim; his daughters Christy Larwood Tennant and Caitlin Latimer; seven grandchildren, one great-granddaughter and many nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind the love of his life, Sheryl Kelly.

Lindsey will be greatly missed by his loved ones.

Viewing took place June 11 at the Siletz Tribal Community Center, followed by funeral services and burial at the Paul Washington Cemetery in Siletz. A potluck followed.

Services entrusted to Bateman Funeral Home.



Courtesy photo

Lindsey Frank John Sr.

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and our people. She has advocated for Tribal housing issues by providing testimony at congressional hearings, writing letters and making phone calls to advance our mutual issues brought forward by the NAIHC membership. She has worked diligently with board members to make sure we are representing all members. Her work with the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, House Financial Services and HUD has established NAIHC as the subject matter experts for Indian housing, often providing NAIHC with the first opportunity to weigh in on important funding and regulatory matters.

Sami Jo has held each of us accountable to one another – holding NAIHC to a very high standard. And best of all, she greets everyone as a friend. We deeply appreciate Sami Jo’s leadership, friendship and considerable dedication to NAIHC and its members.

Please help us recognize our friend, Sami Jo Difuntorum, as we present her with the 2018 Virginia Kizer award.

Garcia receives certification

Jessica Garcia, resident services advocate/rental assistant for the Siletz Tribe, received her Professional Indian Housing Management certification at the NAIHC convention.

Garcia is the first Siletz Housing employee to receive this certification.

“I want to thank my supervisor, Sami Jo, for always pushing me. It is because of her that I see the same leadership qualities in myself that she does also. I really appreciate the opportunities she has given



Courtesy photo

Siletz Tribal Housing Department staff, including (l to r) Valerie Hibdon, Jessica Garcia, Casey Godwin, Sami Jo Difuntorum, Isaac DeAnda and Brett Lane

each one of her employees at Housing to further our knowledge and experience in Indian Housing Leadership,” said Garcia. “I would like to thank Tracy Viar for being the proxy for my testing. She adjusted her own schedule to help me finish each track and most importantly, she made me feel deserving of this great accomplishment, which gave me the confidence to be successful.

“Thank you Valerie, Jeanette and all my coworkers for your support. This accomplishment has given me my self-worth back and the confidence to take the next step toward being an advocate and leader for my people, proving to me and my four children that no matter what life throws at you or at what age, it is never too late to accomplish your goals as long as you believe in yourself.”

Garcia took the initiative to study and take the test locally rather than travel to

multiple trainings to complete the eight courses offered by the NAIHC Leadership Institute, which include Indian Housing Management, Financing Affordable Housing Development, Financial Management, Project Management, Supervisory Management, Admissions & Occupancy, Property Maintenance Management and Environmental Compliance.

Each course ended with a two-hour exam. Participants must score 80 percent or better to receive credit toward certification.

“This is an enormous accomplishment that required a significant time investment. I was very honored to be the chairwoman when she met this milestone goal,” said Difuntorum about Garcia. “It often takes an entire career to complete the multiple training tracks. The NAIHC PIHM certification is the highest level of professional achievement in the Leadership Institute.”

Perfect father,
The first one who came to mind was “my father, Alton Ivan Butler” made me cry because of how much I miss him. I felt like I was robbed because of how little time I got to spend with him; 32 years was not long enough for this child, it’s just a blink of the eye in God’s time.

I felt like I was robbed twice in my life, my mom at 3 years old and my dad at 32 years old, but I know God’s time is perfect. Who am I to complain? I just miss my daddy at times in my life when tough times (storms roll in) and the trials I go through. I miss talking with him and listening to his wisdom.

Forgive me, Lord, for my selfishness, but there’s no one like your father. So if you have a father (daddy), spend time with him, listen and follow his word because one day God might call him home. So love and care for him, do things with him, be his best friend, make memories you will have forever and thank God for him.

Praise God!
Love you,
Sylvia Lorree Butler

General Council Meeting

Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018 • 1 p.m.
Siletz Tribal Community Center
Siletz, Oregon

- Call to Order
- Invocation
- Flag Salute
- Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Programs – Dental
- Tribal Members’ Concerns
- Chairman’s Report
- Announcements
- Adjourn