

Michael William Spencer – 1988-2021

Heaven has gained another angel. Michael William Spencer died as a result of car accident on Jan. 20, 2021. He was a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. He was also a member of the Newport Lighthouse Vineyard Church in Newport, Ore.

Michael was born Sept. 11, 1988, to Virginia Martin and Jack Spencer. The couple split and Virginia married Richard Slonecker. Although Richard did not adopt the children, he became dad to all of them.

Michael met the love of his life, DeMirra Schroeder, when she wrecked her bicycle at his gas station. Three days later Michael stated, "I'm gonna marry that girl, Mama." They were married May 11, 2011, in Newport. They were then blessed with a daughter on Oct. 6, 2014.

Michael was a source of sunshine to everyone he met. He never knew a stranger. He always gave people the benefit of the doubt. His favorite sayings were "living the dream" and "another day in paradise."

Michael worked briefly at Toledo Food Fair but returned to work at Carvers Towne Pump in Toledo, Ore. He was a people-person who was loved by all he came in contact with. He made people laugh, lifting their spirits even when he was down. Michael brought window washing back to service stations.

A Tribal drum send-off ceremony and a candlelight vigil were held Jan. 22. Both were beautiful services.

There was never a dull moment with Michael around. Michael spent his time playing and dancing with Rozalynn and his



Courtesy photo

Michael William Spencer

wife. Family always came first in his life and his heart. Michael loved hiking, singing, drawing, writing poetry and cutting wood.

Michael is survived by his wife Demirra Spencer and his daughter Rozalynn Spencer; father Jack Spencer; parents Virginia and Richard Slonecker; brother Richard Eley (Jennie); sisters Jackilynn Grant (Josh) and Jami Pierce; tons of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and a great-great-nephew too.

Michael is preceded in death by his great-grandparents, Katherine Klamath and Sam Klamath; grandparents Marie Klamath, Gene Spratt and Harold Spencer; uncles Walter Klamath and Virgil Spratt; aunt Arliss Chatterton; and great-nephew Aaron Glickert.

Services were held Feb. 6 at Newport Vineyard Church. Bateman Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

Jean (Downey) Garrett – 1935-2021

With faith in God's love and grace, the children of Jean Arlene (Downey) Garrett announce her peaceful passing, age 85, on Jan. 30, 2021, at her home in Logsden, Ore. Mom suffered a heart attack in April 2020 and in the weeks between Christmas Eve and her death, she had steadily withdrawn from this world and turned toward the next.

Jean was born in Siletz, Ore., on June 27, 1935, to Mae (Adams) and Roy Downey. She was the middle daughter of 13 children and was raised on the small family farm on Logsden Road.

She married her sweetheart, Homer Garrett, on May 14, 1954, at the Assembly of God Church in Newport, Ore., and celebrated 59 years of marriage before he passed in 2013.

Mom was an exceptional cook, caregiver and homemaker. She worked hard to keep a beautiful home and yard, and equally hard for lucky employers. Early part-time and seasonal jobs included laundress, motel room cleaner, crab shaker at Newport Shrimp Company, assistant cook at Newport junior and senior high schools, and later full-time cafeteria assistant cook at Pacific Communities Hospital.

Mom retired several times but couldn't stay retired. She earned the nickname "Mean Jean" while working security, first at "The Tent" for Chinook Winds Casino Resort and then in the Siletz community for the Siletz Tribe.

Once truly retired, Jean stayed busy quilting, crocheting, gardening and feeding the backyard birds. She would drop everything to babysit the grandchildren.

Mom's experience in food service was a valued talent in retirement. She was an Elder WEX worker, then volunteered with Meals on Wheels at the Siletz Tribal Community Center and helped prepare meals for many family and community funerals.

Jean was an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and grateful for the health care, housing and employment programs. She always wanted to give back and served many years on the Enrollment and Health committees and Siletz Tribal Elders Council.

Mom embraced 12-step recovery for the last 27 years of her life. She participated in adoption of the mission and vision for the Tribe's TLC program and volunteered with other women in recovery to establish a safe, drug-free transitional home in Siletz.

Jean is survived by her son Randolph Garrett and wife Rachelle of Lincoln City, Ore., and daughters Denise Garrett and



Courtesy photo

Homer and Jean Garrett

Amy Garrett of Logsden; grandchildren Keith Garrett, Kymber Walker and husband Sage, Brandon Larrabee, Jason Lewis and wife Caitlin, Maranda Garrett, Matt Garrett, Luke Garrett, Sam Anderson, Grant Wilson, Mack Wilson and partner Shannon Jackson, and 12 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by sisters Blanch Downey Tyler and Charlotte Noble of Siletz, and brother Thomas Downey of Newport.

She was preceded in death by her husband Homer Gean (HG) Garrett; parents Mae and Roy Downey; sisters JoAnn Miller, Ila Hoiness, Deanna Howell and Martha McMahon; brothers Melvin Downey, Roy Downey Jr. and Peter Downey; and half-siblings Genevieve (Mickey) Gavin and Kenneth Blacketer.

We are forever grateful for the love and prayers of family, friends and community during the past year and for the kindness and support of Nurse Laura of Samaritan Evergreen Hospice.

Mom hoped to see the groundbreaking for a Siletz Tribal museum in her lifetime. A hard-working group of Tribal and community members are actively fundraising for the museum. Jean's children would be honored to have memorial donations directed to the Siletz Tribal Arts and Heritage Society, P.O. Box 8, Siletz, OR 97380.

And just at the moment when someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!" There are other eyes watching her coming and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: "Here she comes!"

Henry Van Dyke, 1852-1933

Haaland, continued from page 1



Courtesy photo by Sarah Silbiger/Pool via AP

Rep. Debra Haaland, D-N.M., testifies before a Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing on her nomination to be Secretary of the Interior on Capitol Hill in Washington on Feb. 24.

Haaland's path to the Interior Department has included wide support from Indigenous leaders, advocates and allies.

For months, hundreds of Tribal leaders have submitted letters of support for her confirmation. Some of the nation's most prominent Native organizations came together in a way they never had before to support Haaland.

Organizations like the National Congress of American Indians, IllumiNatives, NDN Collective and others created online campaigns, social media tool kits and "tweet-storms."

Frequently celebrities, including Mark Ruffalo, lent their star power and social media platform to support Haaland.

"If an Indigenous woman from humble beginnings can be confirmed as Secretary of the Interior, our country and its promise still holds true for everyone," Haaland said in her opening statement of her hearing before the Senate energy committee last month.

Haaland was born to a Marine veteran father and a Navy veteran mother. She has described herself as a single mother who sometimes had to rely on food stamps and is still paying off student loans after college and law school.

Tribal nations. She will also lead the most important government agencies affecting Indian Country, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education.

All eyes are on Haaland at the helm, who has frequently vowed Tribal consultation, inclusivity and collaboration in her work.

President Joe Biden, who ran on a presidential platform with goals to "restore the soul of America" and to "build back better" has already confirmed a diverse and record-breaking Cabinet.

Some notable confirmations include Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen, the first woman to lead the department; Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, the first Black person to lead the Pentagon; and Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, the first openly gay Cabinet member.

For CTSI Families with Youth Age 18 and Under

If sending a video, please limit it to 10-20 seconds. You can send in your submissions by messaging us on the CTSI Youth Facebook page or by emailing Kat at katrinah@ctsi.nsn.us.

Your submission will be used in a special Earth Day video posted on the CTSI Youth page! If you would like to opt out of the video and only receive the packet, please let us know when sending in your photo or video.

Earth Day
April 22nd

Send us a video or picture of ways your family is honoring the earth by April 19th and receive a free earth packet!

Your submission will be used in a special Earth Day video posted on the CTSI Youth Facebook page.

Follow us on Facebook: [@CTSIYouth](https://www.facebook.com/CTSIYouth)