

In Loving Memory of Pauline Nellie Ricks 1929-1995

Tribal Member Pauline Ricks was born on November 19, 1929 to Arthur "Jug" and Angeline Bell in Logsdan, Oregon. She passed away April 30, 1995 in Portland, Oregon.

She married Chuck Ricks on February 2, 1957 in Salem, Oregon. Pauline lived in Springfield, Oregon for 35 years, but resided in Logsdan for the past 4 years. She was a member of the Siletz Gospel Tabernacle.

She is survived by her husband, Chuck; son, Randall Ricks of Logsdan; foster daughter, Marcella Butler of Vancouver, Washington; brother, Delbert Bell of Springfield; sister, Clarice McKnight of Springfield; numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and one great great niece.

A wake was held, Wednesday, May 3 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Siletz Gospel Tabernacle. Services for Pauline were held at the Siletz Tribal Center on Thursday, May 4, 1995 at 2:00 p.m. Officiating at the service were, Reverend Roy Wood of the Oakridge Assembly of God Church, Reverend Bruce Sullenger of the Siletz Gospel Tabernacle and Virgil Brown.

Music included, "In The Garden" & "Take My Hand Precious Lord" by Lawrence Clayton; "Just A Closer Walk" sang by Selene Lynch; and "Lord's Prayer" performed by Siletz Youth Group in Indian Sign. Bearers were: Ralph Easter, Calvin Easter, Joe McKnight, Art McKnight, Mel McKnight and John Hudson Jr. Honorary Bearers were: Ed Ben, Bob Tom, Bennie

Brown Jr., Gladys Bolton, Madge Mason, Nellie Orton, Betty Whitehead and Kathryn Harrison.

The Interment was held at Paul Washington Cemetery in Siletz, Oregon followed by a pot luck gathering of family and friends at the Tribal Center.

In the hearts and minds of those who knew and loved her these words of description linger: kind, dedicated, loving, sweet, thoughtful, genuine. She was the smile that greeted you at the gatherings, the driving force for much that has been accomplished within the Tribe, she had the ability to pull people together to accomplish a common purpose, a willingness to listen to the problems and concerns of others and, as Ed Ben put it, she was a "Warrior".



She was instrumental in the Restoration of the Siletz Tribe, making an eloquent speech to Senator Hatfield's Committee in Washington D.C. on behalf of Restoration. She helped draft the Tribal Constitution on which we base all operations of the Tribe today.

Pauline was a member of the original pre-restoration Council formed in 1973 and served as a Siletz Tribal Council member for several years to the time of Restoration in 1977 and beyond. While on Council, Pauline served as a delegate and secretary to the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and as a delegate to the National Congress of American Indians.

She promoted the Indian Way, shared our culture, taught our culture, nurtured our culture. In 1976, Pauline was among those of our Tribe who danced, spoke, and shared our culture in Washington D.C. as part of the Bicentennial. In 1973 she was instrumental in organizing the first pow wow held in 40 years in Siletz. Pauline initiated the idea of a Siletz Tribal Court at our Pow Wows and served as our Whipwoman through all the years. She organized and advocated for the Elders relentlessly and served on many of our Tribal Committees.

From this year forward the Nesika Illahee Pow Wow grounds will be known in her honor as the "Pauline Ricks Memorial Pow Wow Grounds".

"Amazing Grace" was sung by those who congregated together to honor Pauline, and that's how we will remember Pauline for she truly lived with *Amazing Grace*.

*The arms of heaven are waiting,
Open wide to welcome this child home.
The love of family waiting to caress the
child.*

*The love of God to hold and embrace.
A gown to clothe and welcome home.*

*At heavens gate, I stand rejoicing.
At heavens gate I stand, singing.
At heavens gate I see home and our loved
ones,*

They are there for me.

Spirit of mine, calm.

*Love of my family, blanketed me for a safe
journey home.*

By: Bev Owens

Thank You

The Families of Pauline Ricks (Ricks, Bells) would like to thank everyone who provided comfort and support for our families - all those who sat with us in shifts during our night and day vigil with Pauline in the hospital in Portland; all those who called to offer support and prayers, who came by and who brought gifts of food; all those who sat up with us the night before the funeral; all those who sent beautiful flowers for her service and who attended it in honor of her; all those who have sent their blessings and good wishes in any form through out this period of grief and loss.

As a family we have pulled together for strength but it is such a blessing to have the extended family that we have in the form of our numerous cousins, our church families, and our Tribe and community.

There is no way to thank everyone individually for the out pouring of love, shared tears, prayers, courage and strength offered to us unconditionally throughout this time. The loss of Pauline from the family and the community is a devastating blow and our hearts are heavy; although the realization that she is gone hits us anew in many ways daily, we are still struggling with the shock and reality of life without her.

All of your continued love, support, and prayers are greatly appreciated.