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"Indian Joe"

Now, I've written this poem
for my dear friend Joe.
He was a full Blood Indian,
a proud Navaho.
Now Joe was the best friend
I ever had, and the
night that he died I was
so very sad.
We grew up together we
were two of a kind, and
a
true friend like Joe was so
hard to find.
Our youth was spent on
the Arizona Reservation,
and we were mighty proud
of our Indian Nation.
Now ours wasn't always
an easy way of life,
for there were times we
experienced hunger, and
there were times when we
experienced strife.
Now we learned not to trust
just anyone, and we
learned there was a lot
more to life than just
having fun.
Now there came a day we
went off to war, and being
both young Marines made
our young spirits soar.
Now I'll never forget that
cold Korean night,
it was hand to hand
combat, a terrible fight,
We were pushing our way
up this Korean Hill
if you wanted to survive you
had to kill;
Now the sounds of gun fire
filled the air, and the
sounds of the dying were
everywhere.
Now Joe was about twenty
yards ahead, and in the
twinkling of an eye, he laid
there stone dead.
I rushed to his side, but
there was nothing I could
do,
for the bullet entered his
heart and passed on
through.
Now Joe was as brave as
any man could ever be,
and
that night he lost his life so
others could be free.
So, what I have written is
my tribute to Joe
one mighty brave Indian
just wanted you to know.

Vern Davidson, 1996



To all Tribal Members,

February 1, is almost here, time to vote for three new Tribal Council Members and it happens every year in February.

You Tribal members are not an interruption to Tribal Council, you are the purpose of us. My goal is to promote a smooth running, high integrity system and I believe I have contributed to where we are today.

All does not run smooth as we want it to in any business, yes, we are a business, we have had our good times and bad times but we still go on thanking each of you for the opportunity to participate and try our best to protect all of us. Sometimes we run into road blocks, at times within the Tribal Council. Several Tribal Council Members were not with us in the struggle for Restoration, education, health, housing and general welfare of our Tribe. Yet they criticize and vote against progress in economic development.

Many of our programs and businesses and some of our employees are at stake because of the greed for personal gains and favoritism for families and areas within the service boundary.

Yes, I want health, education, child care, housing and social services for everyone that qualifies, no matter where you reside. I also want dividends to come to us when the bills are paid.

Now is the time to keep continuity within our Tribe and we can do that if we stick together and vote for committed candidates. Mike Darcy, JoAnne Miller and myself are able to devote the time and knowledge to all of you. Our phones are open for questions and concerns. We will listen and do what we can to resolve whatever is asked of us.

Your vote for Mike Darcy, JoAnn Miller and I will ensure equal

employment, benefits and whatever this Tribe has to offer to Tribal Members. We worked together in the past and our goals were all the same. Names and places were not a problem. Greed, retaliation, and pay day are in not in our vocabulary.

Thank You,
Mary (Dolly) Fisher

My name is Darelle Butler and I am a candidate for Siletz Tribal Council. It is my belief that one should have a better reason to run for such a position in our tribe than that of a gripe that motivates them to run for Council so they can change things. As a 54 year old Siletz man, I had to endure some very lonely and difficult learning experiences to get to where I am today. What I went through was no greater, or less, than what any of my people had to go through; growing up in a society that has no respect for us an Indigenous people.

Today, I am honored, by our tribes accomplishments, to be a member of the Siletz River People. The accomplishments we have achieved as a People, a Nation are clear indications that we have never given up. That the will-to-live, still motivates the Siletz People.

As an adult member of the Siletz Tribes, I offer these words from my heart that bears no bad feeling for anyone. I grew up on the Siletz Reservation during a time when - it was not only forbidden, but even encouraged by some of our people - not to teach us our culture, the foundation of our natural identity to all life! Without that balance, I grew up a very confused person. I know that giving up our identity, our culture is not the key to our success as a nation of today.

The growth of our tribal businesses is beginning to slow down. This is a natural process

of evolution. To each and everyone, life is a continuous learning process. Continually, we learn about who we are spiritually and physically, to maintain our identity to the natural world. We have oppressed our spiritual identity to develop our physical identity. This is evident through the education of our children who have returned to work for our people and helped develop successful tribal businesses today. One of my Uncles once told me, "I don't have much education, but I have a lot of knowledge". Education represents a value system that was brought to our homeland. Knowledge represents a value system that has been in place for thousands of years before there was any other way in our homeland. We must learn to adopt the best from both value systems to create a balance for our children's future of good health and happiness. To achieve this, I ask that we put aside our personal differences so that we can learn to work together. Maybe by learning to work together we can learn to like each other. It's worth a try - vote for me.

Darelle Dean Butler
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To The Editor,
I am Geraldine Foss. I am a homemaker for Fred Hostler, a Tribal Elder. I am a student in the NAP cooking program. I enrolled in the nutrition program to learn to cook and to learn new recipes. I have enjoyed the program very much and Fred has enjoyed the recipes. Erin O'Haver-Hicks has been wonderful to work with. We have had a lot of fun cooking the wonderful recipes. I recommend the program to anyone. I hope the program will continue.

Sincerely,
Geraldine Foss