

Howlak Tichum

Russell Billy Sr., 1935-2015

Russell Billy, Sr. "Blackwolf", age 79, went with the creator Monday, April 13, 2015. He was born June 3, 1935 at Parkdale, Oregon to Jacob and Lucille (Stahi) Billy.

At the age of 3 months his father died from an accident at the Celilo Falls area. His mother passed when he was 7 years old. He was raised by grandparents at Rock Creek, Washington and Warm Springs, Oregon. He attended boarding school at Warm Springs and Chemawa.

He was a fisherman at Celilo Falls from the time he was a young boy until the time it was submerged by the construction of the Dalles Dam in 1957. He was fluent in his Yakama Language and he was respected for his knowledge of treaty rights, tribal and family history, as well as customs and culture of the Yakama Tribes.

He practiced longhouse traditions until the age of 29, at which time

he joined the White Swan Independent Shaker Church.

He was appointed Bishop at the White Swan Independent Shaker Church several years after he joined the church.

He served six years on the Yakama Tribal Council. During that time he received training in Tribal/Federal Law, TERO, NAGPRA and environmental issues. He attended Business classes at the Yakima Valley Community College prior to serving on tribal council. With the Yakama Manpower Program, he was a housing construction leader. Most recently, he served as Cultural Tribal Liaison for the Northwest Native Architecture.

Throughout his life, he enjoyed working in the forest, he was a woodcutter. He enjoyed pow-wows and, for a short time, served on White Swan Pow-wow Committee. At home, he enjoyed working with traditional arts and, on a daily basis, fed "his" birds. On his last day with us, his birds sang beautifully to him.

He is survived by his wife, Redine Kirk-Billy and sons

Jacob Billy, David Billy, Theodore Billy, Perry Billy and Willie Sitting-Horse Kirk; and, daughters Marlene Billy-Comenout, Brenda Billy, Sharon Billy-McCoy, Michelle Billy, Leanda Switzler-Jim, Marie Switzler, Ronica Billy and Natalie Kirk.

He joins deceased father Jacob Billy, mother Lucille (Stahi) Billy, deceased brothers Nelson Billy, Cecil Billy, Mitchell Billy and Leo Billy, deceased sons Russell Billy, Jr., Manuel Billy and Mitchell Billy, deceased daughters Marita Billy and Melissa Billy.

The Dressing and Overnight Services were held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at Simnasho Longhouse. At 4 a.m., April 16, 2015, funeral procession went to the Rock Creek Longhouse for final services and then to the Rock Creek-BlackWolf Cemetery for burial.

Autumn Funerals of Redmond, Oregon assisted with funeral arrangements.

A thank you

We have so many to thank for assisting with our atwi Russell Billy Sr., during his illness and funeral. It was a wonderful feeling to have so many honor him during these times of need.

Thank you, Dr. Thomas Creelman, Dr. Dwight Carpin and Dr. Reneva Dowty for your medical expertise. Thank you EMT staff and Life Flight staff, St. Charles hospitals of Madras and Bend. And thank you OHSU.

Diane Fuller, thank you for always being there to help in any way you could, and thank you all Hospice and Home Health staff, Warm Springs Managed Care, and NORCO staff. All medical and ambulance staff who came to our home to help care for him are deeply appreciated.

Thank you Cece Whitewolf for being my friend and offering our family a place to rest during his stay at OHSU. You are always so generous and good. And thank you my friends Ramona Schuster, Orthelia Patt, Pam Keo-Douglas, Viola Tindler, Angie DeLaTorre and Joan Big Ben for your prayers and words of comfort.

March 20, he was discharged from St. Charles Hospital-Bend. When we arrived home, we had several members of the White Swan Independent Shaker Church waiting for him. Some of the men helped him into our home because he could no longer walk.

Bishop Raymond "Moss" Smartlowit, wife Sybil Smartlowit, George and Doris Strong notified several White Swan Shaker Church members, and they came to our home to hold Shaker Services for him. The prayers and songs lifted his spirit immensely.

I was grateful my sister Roberta was there to help prepare a small meal for our visitors. Also, we thank the young man who brought a

case of canned salmon for him. We didn't get the young man's name, but are still attempting to find out who he was.

Thank you Fred and Olivia Wallulatum for your prayers and songs throughout his illness since the fall 2014. Many prayers and words of comfort were sent from so many friends and relatives, especially George and Doris Strong. Thank you, Travis Andy for Shaker Church prayers and songs at our home.

The funeral services were beautiful and honorable to our atwi, Russell. I extend a very special thank you to Raymond "Moss" Smartlowit, Bishop of White Swan Independent Shaker Church, for the beautiful Shaker Services at Simnasho Longhouse. Also, I extend a very special thank you to Jerry Menninick, Willy Selam and Davis Washines for the honorable traditional longhouse ceremony at Simnasho Longhouse.

We are grateful to Sam Starr and Alvin Schuster for dressing him. Even at a moment's notice you make the time to assist us during a chaotic and sorrowful time.

Thank you, Starla Green and your many assistants for excellent preparation for all meals.

And thank you so much Washat Drummers and Singers.

Thank you, Warm Springs Police Department for the escort from Simnasho Longhouse to The Dalles. Thank you, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Enforcement for your escort from The Dalles to Rock Creek.

The final services at Rock Creek Longhouse were memorable and honorable to him. Thank you Rock Creek Longhouse Leaders, Bronco Jim Jr., and Damian Totus, as well as family and friends from the Rock Creek Longhouse.

Thank you Yakama Na-

tion for acknowledging his time served on the Yakama Tribal Council with the presentation of a Yakama Nation Flag. Thank you Yakama Nation and Warm Springs Tribes for assisting with the funeral.

Thank you, Levi Keo and son Terry Keo for visiting him and being a lifelong friend. He talked about your visits and some childhood memories. Thank you, Chief Delvis Heath and Shirley Stahi Heath for checking on him and visiting.

Thank you, our "nephews/sons" Kenny Billy and Tony Monroe for helping him when he needed your help.

I would have never got through this sorrowful time without my sisters, Joannie Selam, CGray Littleleaf, Vicky Littleleaf, Denise Kirk, Olivia Wallulatum, Roberta Kirk, Anita Mendoza, Maria Godines, Margarita Hawley, Rose Hawley and Mary Ann Hawley; and brothers Anthony Littleleaf, Charles Littleleaf, Oliver Kirk, Fred Wallulatum and Victor "Angel" Godines.

Thank you, nieces, nephews and grandchildren for being there for us. Each and every one of you helped us in your own way, helping me keep him comfortable and clean at home, grocery shopping, house cleaning, funeral arrangements, and words of comfort and love. Thank you, Aaron and Melinda (Billy) Hart.

Thank you Maria and Anita for help with paperwork for the funeral. Thank you Roberta, Maria and Merle Ann for making his buckskin outfit. Thank you Olivia for caring for his plate. Thank you Natalie for the beautiful Memory Cards.

I am most grateful to daughters Marlene Billy

Thank you for writing to the Spilyay Tymoo, PO Box 489, Warm Springs, 97761.

Howlak Tichum

Rose Mary Charley, Wash-N-Mi, 1955~2015.

Rose Mary Charley, Wash-N-Mi, was born June 19, 1955 to Margaret Peters Charley and Russell Virgil Charley Sr. She passed away April 3, 2015.

Loving Ithla (Mother), Kahthlah (Grandmother), sister, aunt, cousin, and friend, Rose had very strong faith. All through her life she was a great believer. And though her loved ones miss her dearly we know she has earned a place to rest in heaven for all eternity.

Rose served the Creator in the Simnasho Longhouse, and at the Warm Springs Shaker Church.

Rose was a tribal historian for her Tyghx people, working with The Oregon Historical Society, the World Forestry Center, and the Museum at Warm Springs.

She was a lifelong employee at Kah-Nee-Tah Resort, where she served as the Cultural Specialist. She also enjoyed work at the KWSO radio station.

She was a featured master basketweaver at the Northwest Basketweavers Association. She taught her crafts at the local camps on the reservation, and she volunteered in her community and at the Warm



Springs Shaker Church. She made friends all across the world. She was a kind and patient teacher.

Rose enjoyed weaving, sewing, and making jewelry as well. Her jewelry was shipped to buyers and collectors all over the world who admired the quality of her work.

Rose also passed on her gift of the living arts to her three daughters and grandchildren.

Wash-N-Mi served her people in the line of gatherers in the Simnasho Longhouse for the Root and Huckleberry feasts.

From her childhood she participated in local fairs and Pi-ume gatherings at He He, Tygh Valley and Pendleton Round-Up, where she enjoyed the Wee-I-Tii style of dance.

She enjoyed music, concerts and dancing. Being out in the root fields, and in the mountains with family were activities that she looked forward to annually.

Being with family was im-

portant to her; family gatherings, birthday celebrations and holidays brought great joy to Rose.

She is preceded in death by both her parents, her eldest sister the late Cordelia Charley Miller, infant brothers Willis Virgil Charley and Willis Leander Charley, niece Norma Lynn Charley, and her Kahthlah's sister, Florence Pete, who named her Wash-N-Mi; Florence groomed Rose for her role in the longhouse.

Her passing was both a sudden and great loss to our family, her surviving daughters Nicole, Tricia, and Sheilina Charley, her three Kahthlahs Liliana A. Bugarin, Kevin P. Jackson and Jordan J. Jackson. Sisters Melissa Charley, Rosalind Sampson, Merilda, Judy, Frank, and Russell Charley Jr., and brother Virgil Charley Watson of Pueblo, New Mexico.

She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles; many friends, relatives and classmates who were very special and dear to our mother.

Rose will be greatly missed. She was one of a kind, and her spirit will live on in the love she shared.

Comenout and Brenda Billy, and son Jacob Billy for arranging give away and meal at the Rock Creek Longhouse for ones who could not return to the Simnasho Longhouse after the burial.

Thank you for being there for your father: Jacob Billy, David Billy, Robert and Marlene Comenout, Brenda Billy, Stony and Sharon McCoy, Michelle Billy, Leanda Switzler-Jim, Marie Switzler, Theodore Billy, Perry Billy, Ronica Billy, Willie and Mars SittingHorse Kirk and Jesse and Natalie. I know a few who could not be at the funeral due to certain circumstances, but I do know that all of you love him and will always hold him in your heart, as I do.

Please forgive me if I did not include your name. I am most grateful for all that sent prayers of comfort and love,
Redine Billy.

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