

Howlak Tichum ~

The following is the Eulogy, by Jamey Skinner McCloud, honoring the late Dr. Ron Pound. The words are presented here at the request of Aurolyn Stwyer, aunt/uncle Mr. Pound's daughter:

It is a great honor to honor a great man, so thank you for inviting me here to pay respects to our beloved elder. I was not raised in the Indian ways, so please forgive me if I speak in error—my only intention is to show respect for our beloved elder and this community.

In listening to the storytelling of our beloved Elder, who we honor here today, I am struck that without our culture, without our ways, we are not a people—we are simply flesh and bones.

The effort to destroy—physically, spiritually and culturally—the peoples that have nurtured this land since time immemorial is only prevented by those who protect and revive the cultural ways.

We have gathered here together to lay to rest a Legend in protecting and reviving the cultural ways of many Indian peoples. We gather to honor his legacy—to show we understand the importance of his work and are committed to carrying it on.

In a 2006 recorded storytelling, our beloved Elder told of his growing up on these lands, learning from his elders, and attending public school in Pendleton. He said, “There was nothing in the

schools that taught us about our culture.” So he changed that for future generations. He made education more valuable and more relevant.

He was a first in many things that he did, but he was ultimately a man of service—that is what he was taught by his elders. When he worked as a smokejumper, he protected lives and land. When he worked as an educator, he taught students, his co-workers, U.S. Members of Congress, and even U.S. Presidents. He played a fundamental role in establishing many of the Indian civil rights laws that protect our families today.

Although the bar for U.S. Presidents is a low one when it comes to Tribal sovereignty and the rights of Indian peoples, President Nixon is notable in his support of establishing many Indian civil rights. But he didn't get there by himself. He was taught. And our beloved Elder, the Legend, was one of Nixon's greatest teachers. The Legend educated those in power and brought people together, across political lines, by working with congressional Republicans and Democrats to pass Indian civil rights laws.

Audre Lorde, a descendant of slaves, once said, “the master's tools will not dismantle the master's house.” You have to be very smart and determined and courageous and compassionate and persistent to dismantle the legal and political shackles that Indian peoples faced when the Legend began educating U.S. politicians.

The Legend was instrumental in passing civil rights laws that have impacted the lives of so many: the Indian Child Welfare Act, the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-

cation Assistance Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

• With the Indian Child Welfare Act, he helped save children being stripped of their culture and sense of identity. Yes, being a parent has its challenges, but irreparable damage is done to a child's soul when they lose their sense of who they are.

• With the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, he helped change what had been his own experience, of not being taught Tribal history, language, culture and traditions—these things that help us be connected to something greater than just ourselves, to have a history and purpose.

• With the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, he helped protect the rights of people indigenous to this land to continue the traditional practices of ceremony and worship and use of sacred objects that have sustained culture throughout time. When your culture is taken from you, you lose your sense of self. The Legend helped people remember and re-establish traditional language and practices that were on the verge of being lost forever.

• With the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, he helped Congress understand that robbing graves is a crime, and helped draft the law that said human remains and sacred objects should be returned home.

And when he couldn't move them in the halls of power, he fought them in the courts.

When the State of Oregon claimed that that Klamath and Modoc could not use peyote in traditional religious ceremonies, The Legend got involved. Because even

if it wasn't his way, he knew the importance of supporting Tribal rights and sacred practices. He joined the fight, and they won in the U.S. Supreme Court.

He worked on—and helped win—water cases with Tribes who may not have been traditional allies, but who needed each other to win important cases to protect Tribal sovereignty.

He also fought for fishing rights—something promised in the Treaties that ceded the lands that became the states of Oregon and Washington. The Boldt decision affirmed Tribal sovereignty and fishing rights. This fight was important to protect the ways—and the food—that have sustained the peoples of this land since time immemorial: the fish, wild game, plant foods, roots, and huckleberries—in all the usual and accustomed places.

He was a man of great education—from Oregon schools to his PhD from Washington State University, where he studied Anthropology and Archeology and music. He revived drumming and dance traditions, then helped teach them to young people.

He believed profoundly in the value of education, saying we are “obligated to ensure that our young people receive an education.” He first made education relevant, then he made sure that people had access to it. To teach the old ways. Because knowing who we are and where we come from is what makes us a people, more than simply flesh and bones.

In the 1980s, when many Tribes were on the brink of losing their languages, as the elders passed, he worked to provide cultural and language education for young people.

He was a culture bearer. And he impacted education of

our entire state when he helped spearhead the Memorandum of Understanding between Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes and state universities to develop historical and cultural education for future generations. This affected me personally—when I studied Water Law and Indian Law at the University of Oregon. We utilized the Longhouse that is next to the Law School.

That was just part of the impact he had.

I know I am not telling you anything new. Many of you here have witnessed these things with your own eyes. But I share them to remember. These are gifts that our beloved Elder, this humble leader, has given us and the legacy that he leaves us.

He was a modest man.

In a 2006 recording, The Legend said he was taught to, “do your best to serve the needs of your people. That's what I was brought up to do.” He said, “always seek the welfare of the people. And do all that you can because we're only here in this life for a brief time.”

That is his legacy and lessons to us. He impacted us all—this community, this state, and this country—in ways we are not able to fully understand or appreciate.

Our broken hearts are grateful.

And with his passing, he now hands these responsibilities to us.

As you take your well-deserved rest, our beloved Elder, please know that we will honor your legacy by carrying on your work.

Rest in Peace and reclaimed Power.

Howlak Tichum ~

Julius Blake Smith Sr. ~
1987-2023

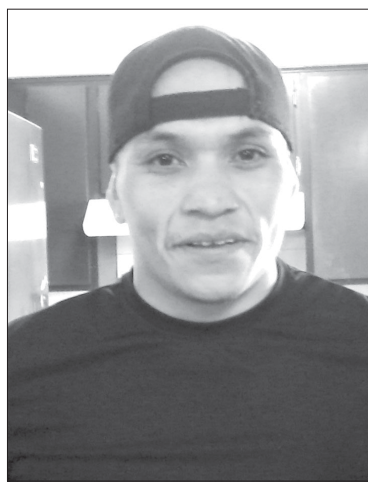
Julius Blake Smith Sr. passed away on Sunday, March 26, 2023. He was 35. Julius passed away unexpectedly at home.

He is survived by his son Julius Blake Smith Jr., 15; his mother Leona Ike, and brothers Jonathan R. Smith, Mario Smith, Joseph Smith, Corey Smith, Kanim Smith Jr., Aaron Smith and sister Hazel Smith.

Julius' careers were as a Hotshot Fire Fighter with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and as a mill worker at Brightwood Corporation until his death.

The family would like to thank Oregon State University-Cascades faculty, Brightwood Corporation and Warm Springs Fire Management for their spiritual support to the family.

Julius Jr. would like to thank his aunts Natasha Dibiaso, Raylene Thomas, Lara Ike, Dawn Ike, Felicia Ike and cousins Iylani Ike, Tyrell Smith, Kanim Smith III, grandmas Lena and Lovie Ike, Venus Tasimpt, grandpa Tyrone Ike, Lucas Ike, James Greene Sr., uncles Nelson Greene and Frederick Ike III, James Greene Jr., grandmas Anges and Flossie Wolfe, Great-grandpas Larry Dick, Samuel Starr, Wilbur Slockish, uncles



Anthony Culps, Alvis Smith III, JoDe Goudy, and Utilities staff, all drummers, grandpa Austin Smith Sr., aunt Yvette Picard, and all Smith and Ike extended family, along with his dad's former co-workers for their swift and loving service and spiritual support

to properly begin his dad's journey into eternal life.

Julius Jr. would also like to thank his friends and his dad's friends for reaching out and giving him support as he prepares to continue forward in life without his dad.

Julius Jr. will remember his dad as a loving father who not only provided for him, but many others with his generosity. Julius Jr. also thanks his mom Holli MadPlume and grandma Muriel Dusty Bull for their support.

Julius Sr. was preceded in death by his Dad Kanim Smith Sr., Sister Angela Smith, Grandparents Frederick Ike Sr. and Daisy Tealawe Ike, Alvis Smith Sr. and Ramona Whiz Smith, great grandparents LaVena Towash Tealawe and Benjamin Tealawe, Annie Jack-



Julius worked with the Warm Springs Hot Shots.

son Smith and Wesley Smith. Julius Sr. was direct descendants to the Treaty Chiefs of Middle Oregon Tribes (Wasco), Yakama Nation, and Tulalip Tribes.

A message from your Veterans Service Officer

Stand to, Warm Spring! Stand to! The Tribal Veterans Service Officer—the TVSO—has more info for you, your Veteran, families, currently serving members and those thinking about joining the military.

If you have a mortgage, this one's for you, from the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (oregonvda.com).

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs—the ODVA—will increase the maximum loan limit for the Oregon Veteran Home Loan for 2023, conforming to loan limits for mortgages set by the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the FHFA.

The ODVA will now accept loan applications up to the new maximum loan amount of \$726,200, an increase of \$79,000 from \$647,200 in 2022. This was effective as January 1, 2023.

The Oregon Veteran Home Loan Program offers eligible veterans fixed-rate financing for owner-occupied, single-family residences in Oregon. The veteran



Rain Circle, the CTWS Veterans Service Officer.

home loan product is a non-expiring, lifetime benefit for any eligible Oregon veteran and may be used up to four times. The program provides financing for purchases only, and cannot be used for refinancing.

This state benefit is separate and distinct from the federal VA Home Loan Guarantee, and has lent nearly \$9 billion in low-interest home loans to more than 336,000 veterans since 1945.

To be eligible, a veteran must

have served on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces, as documented on their DD-214, and must meet one of the service criteria outlined on ODVA's website.

For more information about the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veteran Home Loan, and program eligibility, please visit: orvethomeloans.com

Or call 800-633-6826 to speak with an ODVA home loan specialist.

'Basket Case'

While it tends to be used in a fairly lighthearted way today—usually describing someone who constantly makes stupid mistakes, who crumbles under pressure or gets overly excited and nervous—the original 'basket case' is an unexpectedly gruesome reminder of just how bloody the War became. In its original context, a *basket case* was a soldier who had been so badly injured that he had to be carried from the battlefield in a barrow or basket, usually with the implication that he had lost all four of his limbs.

Remember, Pay attention to your Veteran! Every Veteran is different, and many may not show any signs of intent to harm themselves, but some actions and behaviors can be a sign that they need help.

Learn to recognize some of the signs and take a self-check assessment at: veteranscrisisline.net/signs-of-crisis/

The Veterans Crisis Line, 24/7 confidential crisis support can be reached by dialing 998. Then press 1 or text 838255

I know the frustration and confusion of Military paperwork very well. Please bring in your DD-214.

Don't have it? I can help you get it.

If you haven't brought your DD-214 in for archiving, please do so. I would hate for you to have that 'inked' copy lost or destroyed without a back-up copy. I can be that archive. Also, if you have your 2-A/2-1/201 File on disk, or other storage device, and want it in hard copy form, too easy, bring it in.

I hope these articles in our newspaper help you and your veteran(s). My contact information is below, feel free to call me with your questions. Thank you!

Rain Circle, CTWS-TVSO, 1144 Warm Springs St., Warm Springs, OR 97761. Cell 541-460-8971. Office 541-553-2234.

Child care apprenticeship opportunity

The Warm Springs Community Action Team and the Mountain Star Family Relief Nursery are accepting applications for their **child care apprenticeship**.

The position will start April 15, and is a path to earn a child care teacher qualification in 9-12 months through courses, hands-on training and learning opportunities. Interested applicants should email their resume to: carina@wscat.org