

Walking On: Tribute to a Proud Warrior

"Life is very short...
and there's no time...
For fussing and fighting...
My friend..."

- John Lennon

By Brent Merrill

The thing that I hear people say most about Monte Ring was that it was an honor to know him. Truly, it was an honor to know a man like Monte. In Grand Ronde, our little corner of the world will never be the same.

Monte believed in the Tribal youth. He believed in them even when they didn't believe in themselves. He championed their cause and held the torch that led the way to a life of sobriety and love.

Monte was a very proud member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and he was very proud of his Native American heritage. He was especially proud of our Tribal elders. He was always the first one to remind us all that the elders deserved the best that we could give them.

Monte had dedicated his life to "his people." If there is something noble about people who dedicated their life to serving their fellow man then, Monte Ring was the noblest man I have ever known. He was not a saint, and he would have been the first one to tell you that. But, Monte was a good man with a true heart and a passion for helping others through their troubled times. That was his gift.

Monte is remembered fondly by those who worked with him in his cause. "He had a strong self-esteem but he was very humble in his role in life . . .," said JoAnna Rogers. Rogers is the director at Nanitch Sahallie Youth Treatment Center where Monte was Clinical Manager. "That humbleness didn't always come out but it was so evident here that he could not only give to the kids but also gain from them."

One client at Nanitch Sahallie talked about how Monte had faith in him when no one else did. "We would talk about making it through treatment. I didn't think that I could make it, and he always believed I could make it. That helped me out. He taught me to express myself and understand that I wasn't the only person going through this experience."

Randy Butler was hired by Monte and took over his position as director of the alcohol and drug program when Monte went to Nanitch. Randy remembers Monte as being friendly and open when they first met. "He taught me how to meet people and other things about my job because he knew I wanted to work in the field."

He wished that he could be strong enough to help his clients with all their problems and to give them the direction that they so badly needed. You could just feel the emotion. Sometimes you could see the tears in his eyes."

Monte Ring will be greatly missed by everyone that he came into contact with; The people at Nanitch Sahallie, the people in Grand Ronde, his family, his wife and children.

We thank the creator for letting us have this proud warrior as long as he did.

"He had a strong self-esteem but he was very humble in his role in life..."

- Jo Anna Rogers



Monte Ring at Nanitch Sahallie



Monte Richard Ring

Monte Richard Ring, 52, clinical director of alcohol and drug treatment for Native American youth at Nanitch Sahallie in Keizer, died March 7 in Portland.

He was born Sept. 19, 1938 in Prospect, Ore., the son of George W. and Frances V. (Russell) Ring Jr. He married Clytie June Jones in 1967 in Talent, Ore.

Survivors in addition to his wife and parents are sons Michael Ring Newnham of Bend, Jesse Ring Newnham of Medford, Brent and Mark Ring, both of Salem, and Allen Lindgren; daughters, Annalea Ring Haskett and Rebecca Ring Morgan, of Medford, Debbie Lee of Portland, Janene Lee of Washington and Marla Morgan also of Medford; sisters Patricia Hoopingarner of Grand Ronde, Georgene Shafer of Eagle Point and Mary Ring of Chiloquin; brother, Michael Ring of Prospect, and 23 grandchildren.

A daughter, Lynn Wheeler, preceded him in death in 1980.

Services were held at the Grand Ronde Church of the Nazarene with interment at the Grand Ronde Tribal Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to the Oregon Children's Fund for the prevention of child abuse.

Photo by Brent Merrill

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