



## Hiram Eugene Olney

December 28, 1927 - March 15, 2014

Hiram E. Olney, age 86, passed away at his home on Friday, March 14, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Olney, and his daughter, Jeanne Olney; his grandchildren (Jody Olney, Andrew Olney) and great grandchildren (Bingham Cooper and Cora Cooper). He is also survived by three sisters (Sophia Blodgett, Jane Town and Frances Ward-Schneider) as well as numerous nephews and nieces. Hiram was born in White Swan, Washington on December 28, 1927 to Oscar B. Olney and Frances Smith Olney. He was one of seven siblings. Mr. Olney graduated from the White Swan School District. He then completed two years of school at Central Washington State College, took a two year intensive business course at Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, attended night school at Arizona State University and attended the University of Washington as well. Mr. Olney also participated in two management training programs through the Department of the Interior. Mr. Olney met and married Ruth Evelyn Bigpond in 1953 and the couple remained married for 60 years, 8 months and 14 days. The couple had two children, Randall E. Olney (b. 4-15-57, d. 12-20-2001) and Jeanne M. Olney (b. 4-7-63). Mr. Olney began his career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in June, 1951, as an accountant at the Phoenix Area Office. Throughout the years, he held many positions ranging from Accountant to Administrative Officer to Superintendent. His advancing career allowed the family to reside in various areas across the United States such as Whiteriver, Arizona; San Carlos, Arizona; Washington, D. C.; Ft. Duchesne, Utah; Pine Ridge, South

Dakota; and Fort Hall, Idaho. Mr. Olney eventually assumed the role of Superintendent at the Yakama Indian Agency. At the time, he was the first tribal member to return to his home reservation in the role of Superintendent. Mr. Olney retired in 1996.

Mr. Olney was an enrolled member of the Yakama Nation, a member of the St. Aloysius Catholic Church, a past member of the Toppenish School Board as well as a member of the original Gaming Commission for Legends Casino. He enjoyed sports, reading, fishing and camping. He was also an avid student of the Bible and enjoyed his family. Mr. Olney was preceded in death by his son (Randy Olney), his grandson (Eric Dederer), both of his parents, and his three brothers (Elmer, Pete and Oscar Olney).

Visitation will be on Wednesday March 19, 2014 from 3-7:30PM at Colonial Funeral Home with Recitation of the Rosary at 6:30 PM. Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday March 20th, at 11 am at St. Mary Parish, White Swan with interment at Reservation Community Memorial Park. Friends can send condolences at [www.toppenishfunerals.com](http://www.toppenishfunerals.com). Colonial Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## **Reservation Community Memorial Park**

West Wapato Road 5 miles west of Wapato  
Wapato, WA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Hiram Eugene Olney*

October 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *Sorry to hear about Hiram. Our condolences to the family, take care.  
-Acey and Thelma Oberly and family*

**Acey** - March 20, 2014 at 06:58 PM



“ *I was very sorry to hear my old boss Hiram Olney has passed. I learned from him during our tenure in Fort Hall, Idaho. Hiram was always a gentlemen, and a very wise student of the way the BIA operated. We shared many moments as friends and neighbors, and as fellow Superintendents. My wife and I send our deepest condolences to his wife, daughter, and all his friends and relatives.  
/s/ Bernard W Topash*



**Bernard W Topash** - March 20, 2014 at 01:59 PM



“ *Ruth  
We are very sorry to hear about Hiram. He positively touched many people's lives.  
Lou and Consuelo Hilderbrand*

**Louis & Consuelo Hilderbrand** - March 20, 2014 at 01:46 PM

TJ

“ We are so Sorry about Hiram, He was a Great Man and a Funny neighbor back in the day in Seattle. Our prayers are with you.  
Love  
Tammy Jorgenson and Cheri

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**Tammy Jorgenson** - March 19, 2014 at 08:52 PM

MH

“ I had the opportunity to call "Mr. O" boss. He was always so supportive and worried about me like a big brother. He talked to me many times as a big brother which I always appreciated. I thought of him often. My prayers will be with Mrs. Olney and the family. Marjory Hyde

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**Marjory S. Hyde** - March 18, 2014 at 03:25 PM