



Joseph Louis Hoptowit

May 26, 1959 - July 20, 2024

Joseph (Joe) Louis Hoptowit of Toppenish 65 passed away Saturday, July 20, 2024. He was born May 26, 1959 in Chicago, Illinois. He was a member of the Oglala Lakota Sioux tribe. He was raised and educated in White Swan, Washington. Graduating from White Swan High School in 1977. While growing up he spend most of his days in the hills with his mother Eleanora (Nora) Plumlee while she was working at various fire lookouts.

Joe began working at Yakama Nation Fisheries in 1978, when he was sent for fisheries training at Shelton Jackson college in Sitka, AK and then to Humboldt State college in Arcata, CA. after the training he was employed full-time by the Yakama Nation Fisheries program, where he was an integral part of helping to restore salmon to the Yakima river basin until his retirement in 2021, after 43 years.

Joe enjoyed playing softball and basketball while growing up. He played on various teams, winning many championship and MVP's along the way. He was an avid sports fan rooting for Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls, along with all of the sports teams and franchises in Washington state. He enjoyed Music attending hundreds of concerts throughout the northwest and other areas. He also enjoyed collecting sports memorabilia, mainly, Michael Jordan and Kasey Kahne. Joe was known for always wearing Jordan shoes. After his retirement he spent most of his time with his dog Nakita going on trips to the ocean, hills and other adventures

Joe was preceded in death by his beloved mother Eleanora Plumlee and also

many beloved pets that he treated like family. His last and greatest adventure will be to meet up with his mother and to meet up with everyone he loved and missed in heaven.

Joe touched a lot of lives in his 65 years. He will be greatly missed by all that loved him!

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 am on Tuesday July 30, 2024 at Colonial Funeral Home at 228 S. Alder St. Toppenish, WA. Internment will follow at Reservation Community Memorial Park, 5161 W. Wapato road. Wapato WA.

Cemetery Details

Reservation Community Memorial Park

West Wapato Road 5 miles west of Wapato
Wapato, WA

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUL 30. 10:00 AM (PT)

Colonial Funeral Home
228 S. Alder
Toppenish, WA

Tribute Wall

DP

“ Jo was my step brother.an I just fond out about his passing.iv been out of town.can som9ne let me know what happend to his dog.an evrything.im the youngest out of 6 conting jo.we were just starting are relaship back.i can Remember when my dad an him mom got together.they had rented the house on anethe.by the falls.i thought it Wes so cool. That I had another brother.we use to go with mom up to the lookout were my mom work. We ran allover the hills up there looking for arrow heads an horns toads. I miss my brother very much.we were spost to go to the ocean next summer.

Deanna Plumlee - December 17, 2024 at 02:20 PM

DL

“ I learned just today of Joe's passing. Joe mentored me, a greenhorn biologist back in 1986, and my kids grew up with a beautiful Siberian husky we got from Joe. He had a wealth of fisheries experience and knowledge, and was a skilled protector and articulate defender of our precious natural resources. I will always remember Joe.

David Lind - August 30, 2024 at 10:05 PM

BM

“ CLASS OF 77. Bro I will cherish all our crazy times and adventures in school. Until we meet again. Rock on



Barbara J. Martin - July 30, 2024 at 08:23 AM

EA

“ Condolences to Joe's family & friends! I enjoyed his smiling face, positive, friendly attitude & tireless work ethic! He was a joy to be around! A huge supporter & worker for restoring salmon runs in the Yakima basin. Thank you Joe!Eric Anderson WDFW, Retired

Eric Anderson - July 29, 2024 at 11:49 PM

IS

“ My deepest sympathy to his "family" and friends. I will cherish how he always greeted me , with kindness, warmth and a great smile. His impact within the Fisheries Program will never be forgotten. RIP JLH 🕊️🕯️

Ida Sohappy - July 29, 2024 at 10:18 PM

MO

“ one of the patriarchs of fisheries, dedication & pride in every facet , many surveys & tagging in Cle Elum , countless concerts shared with you & Roza crew , will miss our banter about our sports teams . going to miss you bro man but I know your holding your mom & your other babies 🥰 rest in peace

morales - July 29, 2024 at 09:26 PM

TA

“ Thank you for my start in the career I still continue today at Yakama Nation Fisheries. You were always the stern backbone for our program which is the tip of the spear for salmon restoration in the world.

I'll miss seeing you in your ford truck mobbing to your next adventure. Rest easy Joe.

Toby Ambrose - July 29, 2024 at 05:20 PM

ME

“ One of the nicest guys I've known! Dedicated the majority of his life to the fight for salmon. One of the original seeds for the Yakama Nation Fisheries Department. Always an absolute pleasure to work and visit with. I will miss passing him on the roads in his beloved truck and fur baby passenger. Rest easy my friend.



MelindaG - July 29, 2024 at 02:21 PM

EL

“ Emma Jane LaVallie lit a candle in memory of Joseph Louis Hoptowit



Emma Jane LaVallie - July 24, 2024 at 07:52 PM

JL

“ Rest in peace my friend Joe, Thank you for being a part of the Yakama Nation Fisheries program.... You dedicated so much time to the fisheries program for many years. You will dearly be missed. RIP



Julia Leslie - July 24, 2024 at 07:51 PM

AB

“ Anna Blodgett lit a candle in memory of Joseph Louis Hoptowit



Anna Blodgett - July 24, 2024 at 04:55 PM

MA

“ One great baller always played hard never giving up always remember him from basketball great athlete you can rest now his your life is complete you earned your journey cobfoences to everyone that really knew the real Joe the baller...



mary - July 24, 2024 at 04:05 PM

JS

“ You were crazy, funny guy!! But I'm thankful I had the opportunity to meet you. Rest in Peace.



Julie Sohappy - July 24, 2024 at 03:20 PM

SB

“ Rest in paradise. Sincerest condolences for family left behind. Atawishamash



Simone Blodgett-Owens - July 24, 2024 at 11:01 AM

TH

“ Tina Howard lit a candle in memory of Joseph Louis Hoptowit



Tina Howard - July 24, 2024 at 02:05 AM

DA

“ *RIP my friend you will be missed*



Debbie Azure - July 23, 2024 at 08:24 PM

BO

“ *Bernice G Owens lit a candle in memory of Joseph Louis Hoptowit*



Bernice G Owens - July 23, 2024 at 05:42 PM



“ *Walli Tadena lit a candle in memory of Joseph Louis Hoptowit*



Walli Tadena - July 23, 2024 at 05:10 PM



When I was in high school, we played our softball games at Pioneer Park, he would jokingly tell me, "Just don't hit the house". I think I hit the ball into their back yard a couple of times, but never hit the house....Gonna miss seeing Uncle Joe driving his Ford with his puppy in the passenger seat...Atawishamash.....

Walli Tadena - July 24, 2024 at 04:17 PM

VB

“ RIP Joe, i know you're in your mothers presence.

vernon Bogar - July 23, 2024 at 02:11 PM

MJ

“ Maggie James lit a candle in memory of Joseph Louis Hoptowit



Maggie James - July 22, 2024 at 11:27 PM

SW

“ Shasta Watlamet lit a candle in memory of Joseph Louis Hoptowit



Shasta Watlamet - July 22, 2024 at 07:57 PM

SS

“ It was my absolute pleasure to have met you and be afforded the opportunity to call you a friend, I remember taking part in some YN Fisheries events and get to hang out and laugh around, rest in peace my friend.

Stella Speedis - July 22, 2024 at 07:38 PM

ST

“ *RiP friend*



Susie Tynan - July 22, 2024 at 04:57 PM