



Joseph Jay Pinkham III

September 17, 1927 - August 21, 2012

Joe Jay went peacefully at home, with his family at his side. He was a lifetime member of the Yakama Nation General Council, who dedicated his life serving his people. Joe Jay was the last of the Celilo Falls fishermen.

He attended Toppenish Schools and graduated from Chemawa Indian School in Salem, OR. From 1946-1947, Joe Jay represented the Chemawa Indian School and fought in the light weight Golden Gloves boxing division. He then traveled to Bacone College at Muskogee, Oklahoma for one year before entering the United States Marine Corps.

He proudly served his country during the Korean Conflict. While serving, he was a member of the Chosin Frozen Division. He returned home in 1952 and went immediately back to Celilo Falls. He then met Tallulah T. Tulee, who he married and were together 58 years.

Joe Jay graduated from Vo-Tech School at Idaho and was certified in Heavy Equipment. He attended Yakima Business School and graduated from the Executive Secretarial School.

He was a semi-pro baseball player, one of the original Papooses Indian basketball team. Original member of the Yakama Nation Basketball Tournament Association (YNBTA). During his bowling years he was on the

Wide World of Sports 1962 and all the neighbors came to watch him bowl. He rode in Bronc and Bull Rider competitions throughout the Northwest.

He was a dedicated fighter for Indian Educational Rights. He was an original member of the National Indian Education Association (NIEA), Board member of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). Member of the Yakama Nation Warrior's Association. First Native American to serve on the Toppenish School Board. He was the First Native American Lions Club President. A representative of the Washington State Johnson O'Malley. He was the Yakama Legends Casino's Boxing Commissioner.

Preceded in death by his daughter Margaret Pinkham, his father Joseph Pinkham and mother Ida Thompson-Pinkham. Also his sister Rose Pinkham Bassett and brothers Justin Pinkham and John Pinkham.

Survivors include:

Daughter: Idajo Pinkham with Tony Maltos. Idajo's daughter Aimee Hernandez with children Gabriel Rocha with Veronica Quiroz and great grand-children Aryana, Kyra Rocha, Karissa Rocha, Nico Rocha, Angelo Rocha, Kaylonie Hernandez and Katalina Hernandez. Grandson Stephen Burgess with Nicole Cloud with their children Saul Cloud Burgess, Kenita Burgess (mother Felina Metsker), Kaiden at Colville (mother Melinda Waters-Burgess).

Son: Joe Jay Pinkham III with Margorie, their children and grandchildren Thomas (grandson) and Markeyta (granddaughter).

Son: Glen Pinkham with Yvette and the children; and grandchildren: Cameron, Shenoa, and Dallas Pinkham.

Daughter: Dora Lee Fitzpatrick with Rod Fitzpatrick and their children and

grandchildren. Grand-daughter Hilary Fitzpatrick with Bobby Burdeau, great grandchildren Travis and Trevor. Grand-daughter Ladee Fitzpatrick, grandson Michael Joe Jay Fitzpatrick with Davina Jim. Great grand-daughter Laylah and Martha Fitzpatrick.

Son: Sandy A Pinkham

Daughter: Trudy Pinkham and her children, Katriona and Aspen Hayes (father Darwin Hayes).

Claudia Pinkham-Williams (youngest sister of Joe Jay, but raised as a daughter) and her daughter Nicole Williams and grandchildren, including grandson Robert.

Brothers and sisters are: Irving A Pinkham (Arizona), Gerry Pinkham Miller and family (of Wapato), Julian Pinkham and family (of Wapato), Lloyd Blackstone Pinkham with Joyce and their daughters Cheyenne, Hollyanne, Loren Selam, and Kato; Lorretta Alexander of Pendleton, OR; brothers, Alfred, Allen, Alvin and Mike Pinkham of Lapwai, ID

Nephew: Nate Pinkham and Senovia Pinkham (son and daughter of the Late John Pinkham; Niece: Karen B Pinkham, daughter of the late Justin Pinkham. Paula Pinkham, Carla Pinkham George with husband Brian and their children.

Special nieces and nephews: Saluskin family; Rodena Cowapoo family; Jennie Lou Honanie with daughters Josephine Honanie and Stephanie Honanie-Wendt; Mary Ann Bassett with son Asa & Andrew Washines and daughter Winonah Washines; Elena Bassett.

The family would like to thank those who helped their father with his cancer

treatment which he battled since 1985, Yakima Memorial Hospice, IHS Dr. Rex Quaempts, Northstar Lodge and the Yakama Nation General Council Executive Secretarial Staff.

Dressing services will be on Wednesday August 22, 2012 at the Toppenish Community Center with overnight services to follow. Sunrise services will be on Thursday August 23, 2012 with burial at Satus Point Cemetery south of Toppenish. Friends can send condolences at www.toppenishfunerals.com. Colonial Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Service

AUG **22**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Toppenish Community Center
600 N. Meyers Road
Toppenish,, WA

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph Jay Pinkham III*

October 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *this is very late, but I just found this obituary and I wanted to say how grateful I am to have known him and how grateful I am he came to my Dad's funeral in Glenwood, they were great friends. I am sure he and my Dad (Slim Davison) are sharing stories now and waiting on the rest of us!*

Gwen Davison Mangelson - May 07, 2019 at 12:02 AM



“ *Joe Jay was a good friend of our family.He was always around my dad (Neal Coyner) when I was growing up. I've seen him around in previous years & he seem to never change. He will be remembered as a good & kind man in my eyes. He will be missed. Always remember the good time & it will make his passing easier. Always Herb Coyner###imported-begin###Herbert N Coyner###imported-end##*

August 27, 2012 at 12:07 AM



“ *Joe was the greatest. When I first came to Toppenish in 1965, I remember golfing with Joe Jay many times, usually in a foursome along with Max Pabisz and Lou Miller, both of them having passed years ago. What fun! A laugh a minute. I also enjoyed working with Joe Jay on various community projects. I always had a lot of respect for him and was lucky to have him as a friend. My condolences to all the family.###imported-begin###Jim Flint###imported-end##*

August 25, 2012 at 03:57 AM



“ So sorry for your loss Talulah. I know how much Joe Jay will be missed by everyone. I have known him since his days at Chemawa. as I was living there at the time. He was a good friend to both myself and my husband Bill. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. God Bless You all.##imported-begin##Louisa J. Suggs##imported-end##

August 24, 2012 at 04:07 PM



“ IdaJo, Trudy, Glen, DoraLee, and Tallulah, along with the rest of the family. We are so very sorry for the loss of JoeJay. He carried a great smile and pride he had for each of his children in everything they accomplished. He was a great leader and warrior who fought that disease for many years. It was time that God wanted him home. The loss of a Dad, never goes away, but, in time, you will see him in your children, your brothers and sisters. Prayers to all of you.##imported-begin##Gina Northover-Moore##imported-end##

August 23, 2012 at 05:55 PM



“ I am deeply sadden for the loss of Joe Jay who would be an Uncle through my mother Louise Matthew McFarland Higheagle's mother Emma Pinkham. I did meet with Joe Jay and he helped with a job through JOM too many years ago :) but was always thankful for his friendliness & support that he showed. God Bless to all of the family##imported-begin##Georgia Higheagle Barros##imported-end##

August 23, 2012 at 12:29 PM



“ Giving my condolences to your family, worked with son Joe Jay and his wife at the NAFWS, they are very nice poeple. Sorry to hear of your loss.##imported-begin##Sylvia##imported-end##

August 23, 2012 at 11:06 AM



“ Pinkham Family, so sorry to hear of your loss. Your Dad has the biggest and brightest smile and I rember in school that you kids have that same smile. It will be difficult to keep smiling for awhile, just remember the good times and the smiles will return after the tears have gone. You are in our prayers.##imported-begin##Jeanne Humphrey Taylor##imported-end##

August 22, 2012 at 10:21 PM



“ Joe Jay will not only be missed by his loving family, he will be missed by many friends - locally and throughout the Nation. Such a wonderful person. Our hearts go out to the family, prayers to all from the youngest to the oldest saddened by the loss of our brother. Mel Youckton's family thoughts & prayers are with each & everyone.##imported-begin##Jessie (Youckton) Goddard##imported-end##

August 22, 2012 at 06:53 PM



“ *My prayers are with the family of JoJay. I will miss his smiling face at our family doings. Whenever I saw him, he would ask me how I was doing and what I was up to and then find some humor in my response. Aunt Gin said he was a close relative. I knew as good example of leadership for our people. His presence will be missed. Gwen George Leonard, Warm Springs. (A.G. George Sr.'s daughter)##imported-begin##Gwen ##imported-end##*

August 22, 2012 at 05:55 PM