



Leona Alicia Smartlowit

August 15, 1934 - December 9, 2024

Leona Alicia (Showaway) Smartlowit, a beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2024, at the age of 90. Born on August 15, 1934, in Mission, Oregon. Leona lived a life filled with love, adventure, and deep connections with those around her. She will be missed by all who loved her and whose lives she touched throughout her lifetime.

She was a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the daughter of Dominic Showaway and Louise (Billy) Showaway. She is preceded in death by her parents and siblings, Martha Showaway, Willard Showaway, James Showaway, and Elizabeth (Showaway) Hart.

She attended school in the Mission area until entering and later graduating from Chemawa Indian School. Shortly after, she met and married Paul Smartlowit. They raised a family of six children: Neal Smartlowit, Sandra Umtuch, William Smartlowit, Glenn Smartlowit, Sr., Paul Smartlowit, Jr., and Marguarite Becenti.

Leona followed her passion for learning and became a teacher. Known for her unwavering dedication to young children, she spent years working to protect children and families.

Leona was devoted to her family. She is survived by four children, Sandra, William, Glenn, Sr., and Marguarite, nephews, nieces, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. She was a source of strength and wisdom to her family, always offering guidance with a warm smile and a prayer.

She enjoyed practicing her faith in the Catholic Church. Many of her travels led her to gatherings in honor of Kateri Tekakwitha, and after many years, Leona was elated to learn that Kateri had been canonized as a Saint.

Always the teacher, Leona loved to share her experiences and life lessons and laugh and tell stories. Speaking from her experience for the benefit of the CTUIR, Leona expressed her concerns and proposed a resolution to offer a positive and productive solution, both in the Longhouse and business meetings.

Like her sister, who recently passed, she will be missed at the Bingo Hall. She also had a passion for reading, photography, crafts, and basket weaving.

Leona's viewing will be held at the Toppenish Longhouse on Friday, December 13, followed by a Rosary and traditional services. On Saturday, December 14, she will leave the Longhouse to be laid to rest at the Toppenish Creek Cemetery in White Swan, WA, with a meal to follow back at the Longhouse. Friends and family are invited to share their memories and honor Leona Smartlowit's remarkable life.

Leona's kindness, humor, and compassionate spirit will be deeply missed, but her legacy will endure in the hearts of those she inspired.

Cemetery Details

Toppenish Creek Cemetery

White Swan, WA

Previous Events

Overnight Service

DEC 13. 7:00 PM (PT)

Toppenish Longhouse
Robbins Road
Toppenish, WA

Graveside Service

DEC 14. 8:00 AM (PT)

Toppenish Creek Cemetery
White Swan, WA

Tribute Wall

DJ

“ *My sincere condolences, love & prayers to the family for the loss of a kindhearted lady. May her children & rest of her family members be comforted in a blessed way. Her smile will be missed by many individuals whom she touched the hearts in a kind gesture.*



Debra M. Johnson - December 16, 2024 at 04:33 PM

GB

“ *GOD BLESS YOUR SOUL. MAY YOUR REST IN PEACE*

gay billy - December 16, 2024 at 02:35 AM

SW

“ *Shasta Olney Watlamet lit a candle in memory of Leona Alicia Smartlowit*



Shasta Olney Watlamet - December 13, 2024 at 08:23 PM

DH

“ *Debbie (Bruh) Hurley purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Leona Alicia Smartlowit.*



Debbie (Bruh) Hurley - December 13, 2024 at 12:51 AM



“ *Denise Denise lit a candle in memory of Leona Alicia Smartlowit*



Denise Denise - December 12, 2024 at 02:35 PM

MW

“ *I knew this women's family...my Grandma and traveled up to Canada one time with her mother Louise and brother Willard was the driver. Her mother Louise was very active in the Mission community. When she would come to the Missi on community it was always so good to see her big smile and hug.she was a strong woman who participated in the Pendleton Round Up and Happy Canyon show. Her sister Elizabeth was a very loving person big smile and just a happy person. Yes she will be missed lmy heart is hurting for her loss but the memories will carry on in my heart.. sending my sincerest condolences to her family..my love prayers and songs to Margurite Becentie as whenever I seen she would let me know how her Mom was doing Creator called another angel home. Safe travels home.*

Marjorie Waheneka - December 12, 2024 at 10:00 AM

SH

“ *Sonia Heemsah lit a candle in memory of Leona Alicia Smartlowit*



Sonia Heemsah - December 12, 2024 at 12:20 AM

KD

“ *Kiona Dick lit a candle in memory of Leona Alicia Smartlowit*



Kiona Dick - December 11, 2024 at 05:45 PM

JH

“ *St Kateri..bless her journey*

Jennie Honanie - December 11, 2024 at 02:07 AM

MS

“ *PRAYERS 🙏 for Family ❤️*



Matilda Smiskin - December 10, 2024 at 08:03 PM

BO

“ *Bernice Owens lit a candle in memory of Leona Alicia Smartlowit*



Bernice Owens - December 10, 2024 at 07:06 PM

CF

“ *Our sincerest condolences, hugs and prayers
for the children/grandchildren left behind.
Hugs Sissy.*



Celestine Family - December 10, 2024 at 03:13 PM