



## Louie C Vargas

December 14, 1947 - December 15, 2020

Louie C. (Spencer) Vargas

Born at home on December 14, 1947 in Toppenish, WA. He went to public school in Toppenish.

August 1967 Louie entered the Armed Services doing his 16 weeks of training at Ft. Lewis, WA. He was then assigned to the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry (mechanized), 8th Infantry Division, Baumholder, Germany. After seven months he volunteered for duty in the Republic of South Vietnam. He was then assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division (Air Mobile). His position was point man for his platoon. He received the bronze star medal for Meritorious Achievement in Ground Operations Against Hostile Forces and The Air Medal for Meritorious Achievement While Participating in Aerial Flight. His tour of duty in Vietnam ended in August 1969. He later was Honorably Discharged August 16, 1973 from Reserve Standby. His rank at discharge was Sergeant E-5.

He worked various jobs before furthering his education at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, WA. He attended Fall of 1973 to Summer of 1977 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. His major focus was governmental law.

Over the years Louie did some motor bike cross country racing, took lessons in race car driving just for the thrill, one spring he rode bulls in Omak, WA, and he chased wild horses with his brother-in-law. He was known as a pool shark by those who watched him play. Bowling became a passion. In his younger

days he played poker out at the White Swan grounds and in Reno, NV. He hunted elk, deer, pheasants, and geese. Louie knew how to enjoy himself without losing sight of working for a living.

In the year 1977, we began our 43-year journey as a family. He also started working for the Yakama Nation Legislative & Legal Dept as a paralegal assistant. He enrolled in the Antioch School of Law through Washington D. C. His biggest project working as a paralegal was developing the Yakama Nation Tax Code. Another assignment was reviewing the Federal Register which brought about the funding for the Commodity Food Program. He also wrote the Hanford Clean Up position paper for the Tribe. Funding for the position ended so he moved on.

He always preferred to be self-employed, so he tried fish buying along the Columbia River from tribal members. It was quite a task: buying, cleaning, and selling. He did it all. He also cut and sold firewood. He worked on the construction of the fish screens at the Union Gap dam area. Then he operated water and log trucks for Wheeler Logging. This is when he became energized to be an owner/operator of his own log truck. About 1993 he purchased a brand new Peterbilt and trailer. He called his business "Lone Star Trucking, Inc.". He operated for 15 years before retiring.

Louie left this life and went on to his next journey December 15, 2020. He will forever be in our memories as a protector, a teacher in life skills, a brother, a grandpa, a papa, a stepdad, an uncle, a friend, a veteran, and my husband. He spoiled us with his love and caring and was always there for us. Rest in peace now Louie. Your life was well lived, and you are deeply loved.

Surviving family: Marlene Simla (sister), Elaine Allen (sister), Teresa Ashue-Finley (wife), Victoria Palmer and Alison Aranda (stepdaughters), numerous nieces, nephews, and grandchildren. His Columbia River fishing family. His tribal political family. All his long-time friends were family to him. God bless all of you for being a part of his life experiences.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **21**. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (PT)

Heggie's Colonial Funeral Home  
228 S. Alder Street  
Toppenish, WA 98948  
(509) 865-3222  
[info@heggiescolonialfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@heggiescolonialfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Louie C Vargas*

October 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *Tammy Swan lit a candle in memory of Louie C Vargas*



**Tammy Swan** - January 14, 2021 at 01:46 PM



“ *Teresa, Marlene, April, and Allison, I am so sorry for the loss of Louie. I was saddened to hear of his passing and I am sure going to miss him, his advice, and presence at GC! My husband and I were both down with Covid since 12/8 and I hadn't heard the news until after the fact. But I sure want you all to know he was my family and I am sure sorry I missed the services, I will remember him with much appreciation of his knowledge that he shared with me and his kindness. Take care, my love, and prayers are with you all in this difficult time.*

*Shay-Anne Spencer*

**Shay-Anne Spencer** - January 01, 2021 at 09:45 PM

AF

“ My sincere condolences 🙏🙏🙏



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**Abel French** - December 31, 2020 at 12:59 PM



“ I'm sorry to hear of Uncle Louie's passing. I am his sister Jeannie's daughter. I remember my Uncle as a young girl and remember him being very kind and so intelligent. My condolences! - Melissa Estes

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**Melissa Estes** - December 21, 2020 at 10:46 PM

RV

“ I am saddened to hear of Louie's passing, my condolences to Mrs. Vargas and family. I got to know Louie about 4 years ago and he was easy to warm up to and had one of the most welcoming smiles and demeanor. There is no doubt, that this quality, among many others, were his strengths. Hard working, devoted to family and friends, caring, understanding and nonjudgmental and with a great sense of humor, is how I remember Louie and he was a very intelligent human being. Louie was a very honorable combat veteran and served his country with strength and distinction. I'll remember our conversations that we shared, of how proud he was to be a Tribal Warrior, who did his duty for his country and family. I was proud and lucky to have known Louie, even for such a short time. Hope to see you again Louie, on the other side.

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**Robert S. Vasquez** - December 21, 2020 at 12:30 AM

JB

“ John and Doreen, Cristal, Brandon purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Louie C Vargas.



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**John and Doreen, Cristal, Brandon** - December 20, 2020 at 08:43 PM

SB

“ Respectful thoughts sent to family and friends of my friend Louie. I was raised one block from Toppenish's Rowberry's Sporting Goods and Pool Hall. Louie is 2 years older. He taught me how to play pool. He was always kind, smiling and protective. I watched him frustrate many pool players to the point they chose fighting only to be a loser there too. Louie was always meticulous about his appearance and sensitive to others. My classmate buddies felt safer when Louie was around and knew not to date certain girls or we may get a free boxing lesson. His obituary supports our feelings of respect and love for Louie Vargas. He is an example of a man who understood balance in life with the confidence and commitment to create his way to enjoy it. I'll always remember you, Louie, as a mentor and friend. Stephen Busby Top-Hi '67

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**stephen T. Busby** - December 20, 2020 at 07:06 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jan Wernitsch-Briggs** - December 19, 2020 at 08:54 PM

AW

“ Prayers and Strength Teresa you lived a long loving life you two shared together. A very Blessed couple who supported each other through it all. Many happy and wonderful memories. Take care with your daughters love and support and your grandbabies. Always much love and respect for Teresa. And Louie.



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**Annie Wahsise** - December 18, 2020 at 07:29 PM

SW

“ Shasta Olney Watlamet lit a candle in memory of Louie C Vargas



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**Shasta Olney Watlamet** - December 18, 2020 at 03:31 PM

CP

“ I am going to miss the smile of my Uncle, his laugh, and genuine care and intrest of others. He was a good man who will surely be missed. Love you Uncle! May you rest easy and peacefully. My thoughts and prayers are with Teresa and the family.

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**Christina Parker** - December 18, 2020 at 03:24 PM

PL

“ Condolences to Teresa & Family. Louie will be missed 🏠🏠🏠

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**Paul & Marlene Lopez** - December 18, 2020 at 03:15 PM

MG

“ *Teresa and Family, I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. I didn't know Louie, but I used to hear him at Tribal Council, and was truly impressed with his knowledge, Take care of your mom kids. Love you all.* ”



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**Maxine e George** - December 18, 2020 at 02:39 PM

BO

“ *Bernice Owens lit a candle in memory of Louie C Vargas* ”



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**Bernice Owens** - December 18, 2020 at 12:55 PM

JB

*So sorry to hear of Louie's passing. He and I were friends in High School. I remember him and I can see him in my vision and what he was wearing one time. He signed my yearbook and I posted on Facebook his picture from that year. I am amazed at the incredible life he lived and all he accomplished. I have not seen him since our high school days but never forgot him. I am Jan Wernitsch and my dad was Augie the policeman in Toppenish. Prayers and Blessings to the family.*

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**Jan Wernitsch Briggs** - December 19, 2020 at 08:43 PM

OJ

“ 1981 I met Louie and we became life long friends , he was a smart man who had a heart of gold , if people needed help he would always lend a helping hand of course with a little sarcasm tossed in there , I have a lot of great memories with my friend and his family. Prayers to Teresa and kids and grandkids. Prayers for peaceful journey I'm going to miss our visits pard.



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**Oliver Pimms Jr** - December 18, 2020 at 11:29 AM

JU

“ Julie Umtuch sent a virtual gift in memory of Louie C Vargas



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**Julie Umtuch** - December 18, 2020 at 10:02 AM

RJ

“ Safe journey to you Louie. Do not anything hold you back.

Was not supposed to end like this. Creator had a different for you.

You shared so much and you will truly be missed.

You were a wise and true man that loved to get things done. So now its time to rest easy.

Think of all those you get to rejoin! I am glad you Re no longer sick and no more pain, so that is the comfort to think of your departure.

Prayers to wife, family, and friends. Take care of each other. We want to thank you for sharing this man and being part of our life, he was very special. Loved this man, always made us happy and full of hope.

Louie Louie, not saying good bye, saying love you and we will rejoin some time.

You are really traveling to the Light Side, give my regards to the gang .

Blessings to all. 🙏🔔💜🕯️🕯️🕯️💜🔔🙏



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**Regina Jerry** - December 18, 2020 at 01:01 AM



“ Patti Smith lit a candle in memory of Louie C Vargas



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**Patti Smith** - December 17, 2020 at 08:57 PM