



Nola Tabayoyon

July 16, 1943 - October 15, 2022

Nola Tabayoyon

1943-2022

Our beautiful, dear mother Nola Tabayoyon, passed away at her home at the age of 79 on October 15th, 2022. Nola was born on July 16th, 1943 in Pocatello, Idaho to Vernell Anderson and Vermont “Monty” (Merrill) Anderson. She grew up in Arco, Idaho with her three sisters on a potato farm.

In 1973 with two small children, Casey and Jera'Le, she moved from TriCities to Toppenish looking for work. The Branding Iron Restaurant's former owners convinced Nola to take over the restaurant and agreed to loan her the money to purchase it. She had no restaurant experience, so buying the Branding Iron included some risks. She had previously managed a truck stop and had also run a go-go bar. But an actual restaurant? She stated, “My kids were small and I wanted out of TriCities, so I took a chance”.

While running the Branding Iron, she found the love of her life in Richard “Dick” J. Tabayoyon, right next door at Texaco Oil. They then married and had their daughter, Rachel, together. In 1979, the Branding Iron and Texaco Oil relocated to the corner of US Hwy 97 and US Hwy 22 where it has stood and operated ever since. Outside of the Branding Iron, she loved going on trips and spending time with her family, and especially helping to raise her

grandson Jodeci. Those two had a special bond.

Nola is preceded in death by her husband, Dick, both parents, two sisters Renee Dickey and Ardeth Belles, and stepson William "Bill" Tabayoyon. She is survived by one sister, Claris Jones, her three children Casey Merrill, Jera'Le (Scott) McLeod, and Rachel Rae Godina, and one stepson Richard "Rick" Tabayoyon, Jr. She also leaves behind several grandchildren: Darek (Tiffany) Merrill, Alicia (Tayler) Riddle, Jessica (Casey) Lehman, Brittanie (Jake) Barthel, Katelyn (Jeffrey) Muschett, Jodeci Godina, and four great grand children.

Family and friends are invited to attend a funeral service on Tuesday, October 25th at 11am at Colonial Funeral Home (228 S. Alder St. Toppenish, WA 98498) followed by interment at Wapato Cemetery. Following the service, there will be a memorial gathering at the Branding Iron Restaurant for all family and friends to attend. Please bring your fondest memories of Nola to share.

Cemetery Details

Reservation Community Memorial Park

West Wapato Road 5 miles west of Wapato
Wapato, WA

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **24**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (PT)

Colonial Funeral Home
228 S. Alder
Toppenish, WA

Funeral Service

OCT **25**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Colonial Funeral Home
228 S. Alder
Toppenish, WA

Tribute Wall



“ *Nola Tabayoyon*

October 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *I am sad to just now read of the passing of Nola. Today, I am just now reading the obituaries and sadly didn't see it in time to pay my respects. I had so many times wanted to drive to the highway 97 new location and just sit and chat about the times we shared, sadly I never made that trip. Many years ago, when the restaurant was next to the gas station, my parents had the mexican restaurant across the street. Dick would always call and order coffee and I would take it to him, he was a character. I eventually ended up working for Nola and was her head waitress for a time, helping with the scheduling and getting things done. Nola was an incredible, strong woman and I enjoyed her and Dick's friendship long before Rachel was born. The swimming pool at the house we laughed about the dragon and it had it's own meaning. I send the family prayers for peace and healing. God Bless from Laura Newman*

Laura Newman - October 25, 2022 at 10:51 PM



“ *I always enjoyed talking to Nola, she always came out to greet me at the restaurant. Many, many meals were eaten at the B.I. by myself and family members over the last 40 some years. My sympathies to all her family members.*

Kristine Nau - October 25, 2022 at 10:21 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Nola Tabayoyon.*



October 24, 2022 at 03:13 PM



“ *Benavidez & Garza Family (Helen) purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Nola Tabayoyon.*



Benavidez & Garza Family (Helen) - October 24, 2022 at 05:30 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Nola Tabayoyon.*



October 23, 2022 at 07:23 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nola Tabayoyon.*



October 22, 2022 at 09:09 PM

HB

“ remember being little and loving her home decor! Crushed red velvet and glass mirrors! Those were the best of days. Rachel and I were inseparable and every weekend I found my way to their house. She was always welcoming and Dick was always cooking something wonderful. They treated me as family and made every moment memorable. From cleaning the pool, pulling up asparagus, sneaking pull tabs at the bar, every moment was a memory and to her and Dick I say thank you. Thank you for some great times that I was lucky enough to spend with you both and Rachel. To Casey, Rick, JeriLee, and Rachel thank you for sharing your mom with me. She was a wonderful women.



HB
Helen Benavidez
2 minutes ago

Helen Benavidez - October 21, 2022 at 01:42 PM

DW

“ Debra Whitefoot sent a virtual gift in memory of Nola Tabayoyon



Debra Whitefoot - October 21, 2022 at 01:22 PM

DW

Thank you for the many nice meals and the great hospitality you always provided.

Debra Whitefoot - October 21, 2022 at 01:23 PM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Nola Tabayoyon.*



October 20, 2022 at 12:47 AM



“ *Bernice Owens sent a virtual gift in memory of Nola Tabayoyon*



Bernice Owens - October 19, 2022 at 11:43 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Nola Tabayoyon.*



October 18, 2022 at 10:31 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to the family.*



Julianne_umtuch @outlook.cim - October 18, 2022 at 08:23 PM



“ Oh Momma, oh how i miss you so very much. You were not just the strongest most stubborn lady I know but my role model my best friend. We had our differences we drove each other crazy, but at the end of the day i no there was a reason behind the madness and we both had one common goal one common Love and that was to raise our Lil bubbie to be a caring , loving, compassionate funny smartaleck young man. He waited forever to work there for you, he loved his job he loved trying to make you proud of him, making his own money to buy what he wanted and clothes he needed. So we wouldn't have to. I know you feel and think you were a burden but you weren't. I promised you I'd do my best I'd never let you go to a home. You were my mom and even though it was to much some times me and jodeci would do it again in a heart beat. I never worked so hard at something or so much to prove to you I could do it, that all you taught me wasn't for nothing. You've been through so much in your life always some how managing to pull threw it usually doing it alone. I can only wish I could be as strong and determined as you. I miss you momma, I miss our road trips laughing at the dumbest things, to your smart ass comments and the expression your face made with it. No one could understand the twisted relationship we had or how we could talk to eachother the way we did. But it was how we got along and to us it was funny. Our twisted sense of humor extended down to jodeci listen to you guys roast each other and the stuff you would say blew me away. I loved he had a special relationship with your sweet and cute Lil gestures all the way down to your special hand shake. You were not just his grandma or 2nd mom you was his bestfriend to. He never wanted to make you sad or mad i know it tore him up inside when someone would hurt you or when he could make you feel better he loves loves you momma. I know I was difficult I no I messed up I no I disappointed you and at time hurt your feeling. I am truly sorry for all of it. I really wanted to make you proud I wanted nothing more but to show you I could do it I had a good teacher. But now what I've been with you so long I'm so lost I miss you so bad I feel like at the end I failed you I'm sorry we tried me and Jay tried . I might of complained but in the end I knew your best intentions were at heart. We are

trying so hard to stay strong. Your baby boy is gonna be OK. Thank you for helping me raise him thank you for being my mom and my best friend I love you to the moon and back momma. I promise not to let you down and raise a good loving strong compassionate young man. I no you were tired I no you were loving on borrowed time, but I wasn't ready I wasn't ready to say good bye. We love you momma, but you get to be with daddy now, your parents and sisters. You get to rest. Most of my heart is now in heaven. I love you, ❤️ Rae



Rachel Godina - October 18, 2022 at 06:04 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Nola Tabayoyon.*



October 18, 2022 at 05:52 PM



“ *Ill always remember the pies and good food and friendly atmosphere.rip*

Lewis Underwood - October 18, 2022 at 11:03 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nola Tabayoyon.*



October 18, 2022 at 05:05 AM



“ *Nola, I was so shocked at finding out about your passing. This knowledge immediately saddened me. What a loss!*
I know you are in a better place now, so rest in peace. And, continue to be happy. Reunite with some of your loved ones. And, just treasure this special time. What a wonderful lady you were... always upbeat, bubbly, and friendly. I enjoyed your visits at the pharmacy. You had a way of making one feel very comfortable in your presence. I marveled at your love of family... forever supportive and understanding. You always went the extra mile!
I, also, admired how you treated your employees... very generous at Christmas and other times as well. So, totally awesome. So, totallyNola!
I am going to miss you. In fact, I already do!!!
Prayers and blessings,
Karen Lommers



KarenLommers - October 17, 2022 at 04:58 PM

HB

I remember being little and loving her home decor! Crushed red velvet and glass mirrors! Those were the best of days. Rachel and I were inseparable and every weekend I found my way to their house. She was always welcoming and Dick was always cooking something wonderful. They treated me as family and made every moment memorable. From cleaning the pool, pulling up asparagus, sneaking pull tabs at the bar, every moment was a memory and to her and Dick I say thank you. Thank you for some great times that I was lucky enough to spend with you both and Rachel. To Casey, Rick, JeriLee, and Rachel thank you for sharing your mom with me. She was a wonderful women.

Helen Benavidez - October 21, 2022 at 01:37 PM

HB



Helen Benavidez - October 21, 2022 at 01:40 PM