



## Susan R. Rigdon

January 30, 1942 - June 30, 2017

Susan R. Rigdon “Wah Kam Lat” (75) of Toppenish passed away in McMinnville, OR on June 30, 2017. Sue was born in Toppenish on January 30, 1942 to Willard I. and Rachel (French) Olney. She was raised and educated in Wapato graduating in 1960. On September 11, 1965, she married Melvin Rigdon. Sue earned her Bachelor’s and Master’s degree from CWU and worked 25 years for the Wapato School District. Sue had many accomplishments driven by her passion for education, cultural and the Yakama Nation Community. She was the founder and director of the Wapato Indian Club and co-founded the Wapato Middle School Cultural Unity fair. Sue was a member of the Yakama Nation, served on the Yakima Valley Library board for many years and also on the local Red Cross board. Her family was the center of her life and she never missed her children’s events. In 1988, she was voted Yakima Valley fan of the year. Sue enjoyed beadwork, sewing, traveling and going to casino’s.

Sue is survived by her husband of over 51 years, Mel Rigdon of Toppenish; one daughter, Polly Rigdon-Olsen of Seattle; three sons, Doug Rigdon of Hood River, Philip Rigdon and Steve Rigdon both of Wapato; five grandchildren, Nate, Tucker, Tyee, Aidan and River; a brother, Philip Olney; one sister, Helen Olney both of Toppenish; and all the children she deeply cared for over the years as her own. She was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Joseph Olney; and two nephews, Christopher Olney and Timothy Brown.

Dressing services were held on Saturday, July 1, 2017 at Colonial Funeral Home at 4PM with a wake following at the family home. Overnight services were on Sunday, July 2, 2017 at the Toppenish Creek Longhouse in White Swan. Catholic Mass was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Monday at 9AM with burial following at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. Friends can send condolences at [www.toppenishfunerals.com](http://www.toppenishfunerals.com). Heggie's Colonial Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

**St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery**

White Swan, WA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Susan R. Rigdon*

October 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *Susie. Rigdon was a one if a kind friend. I was blessed to have her as my friend. Our conversations were usually long with laughter and reminiscing my how i will miss her beautiful soft voice. She always seemed to say the right things to make you feel good. So when she called me the afternoon before she passed and asked me to pray for her. What an honor i will never forget. Will truly miss you my friend. Love you. We will meet again*

**Barbara Schabes Mitchell** - October 03, 2017 at 02:13 PM



*Forgive me wrong susie rigdon*

**Barbara Schabes Mitchell** - October 03, 2017 at 02:36 PM



“ *Sue will forever be in my heart for giving me the opportunity to see parts of the US that I would have never thought of. She was so caring and gave so much of her time to the students at Wapato Middle School - it was truly a blessing to say I knew Sue.*

**Allison Frank-Shavehead** - July 24, 2017 at 05:52 PM



“ Sue was such a great person to know she taught alot of knowledge to everyone she always had a smile I've never known anyone like her she's one of a kind she'll be greatly missed



Janine Wesley - July 18, 2017 at 01:05 PM



“ Lit a candle in memory of Susan R. Rigdon



Trina D. Sherwood - July 06, 2017 at 11:51 AM



Love and prayers sent by Joe, Tamisa and I. May Creator comfort and heal all in your time of need. I admired her for her dedication to her work with children.

Trina D. Sherwood - July 06, 2017 at 11:55 AM



“ You taught so much it to bad I was stubborn but like when you ask why do I keep stopping by in her office .. I don't know she told me you know why , then when I sydsyed with them asking if I would wanna help children when I grow up I said no I wouldn't do that well been foster parent for a well I loved you. So much all I ever wanted was to loved



jennie - July 06, 2017 at 07:44 AM

MB

“ Our thoughts and Prayers are with you and your family Mel. May God encourage and comfort you and yours at this time of loss.

Mike and Cheri Berryessa - July 05, 2017 at 06:56 PM

AL

“ Sue welcomed me to the Wapato Middle School staff in 1987. She took me under her wing and taught me about Wapato culture. We spent many hours working together on the Cultural Unity Fair. She loved all the children and families. Blessings to Mel and family. Sue will be missed.

Amy Kay Trueblood Lindh - July 05, 2017 at 10:15 AM

JK

“ Mel, I am so sorry for your loss. Sue was an amazingly strong woman of faith and courage. I am grateful to have called her a friend. I just returned from a trip 'home' to read of this loss. Know that my prayers and thoughts are with you and the family during this difficult time. You can be consoled knowing that Sue impacted the lives of so many young people especially "her Indian kids". The world is a better place because of Sue. Prayers and blessings, Joan M. Kluck

Joan Kluck - July 05, 2017 at 09:51 AM

RS

“ Our condolences to Mel and family. Rose and Ralph Sampson

Rose Sampson - July 04, 2017 at 12:01 PM

CM

“ Mel I am sorry for your loss. Sending Gods comfort to you and the children. Cameren Menzel

Cameren Menzel - July 04, 2017 at 09:44 AM

RM

“ Sorry for your loss Mel. The Massong family



robert massong - July 04, 2017 at 09:35 AM

Mi'toots  
Heemsah

“ Mi'toots Heemsah lit a candle in memory of  
Susan R. Rigdon



Mi'toots Heemsah - July 03, 2017 at 04:11 PM

Mi'toots  
Heemsah

“ R.I.P. MS. Sue I will never forget all that you did for me while I was  
in school & out of school. Love you always❤️ you was like a second  
mom to all of kids you were involved with.

Mi'toots Heemsah - July 03, 2017 at 04:10 PM

LT

“ So many memories ... Ur Beautiful smile..ur  
Beautiful heart you shared with all the youth  
(now adults) as our Mom too.. thank you for  
all ... R I P.. MRS..SUE RIGDON



Lillian A. TahkeTahkeal - July 03, 2017 at 12:04 PM

DC

“ Prayers for the Family of Sue Rigdon a beautiful, caring and giving lady. Well respected and much love she gave to our youth and her family.

*Dawn Magee-Cobell*

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**Dawn Magee- Cobell** - July 03, 2017 at 01:05 AM

JS

“ Thank you Mel,Polly,Doug,Phil,Steve for sharing this wonderful lady with me.. one of many whose life she touched. I will cherish the memories I have. You all take care. Love and Prayers,, me Julie Sohappy



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**Julie Sohappy** - July 02, 2017 at 11:30 PM



“ My prayers with the family. ♡



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**Armetha Smiskin** - July 02, 2017 at 11:07 PM

RI

“ I will see you again someday Sue

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**Rita** - July 02, 2017 at 10:44 PM

DD

“ Much love to Sue's family. She made a positive impact in my life and will always treasure the memories we had together. Rest in peace my guardian Angel. Love you Sue.

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**Delaine DeMontiney** - July 02, 2017 at 08:24 PM

 Jaclyn Colfax

“ *Jaclyn Colfax lit a candle in memory of Susan R. Rigdon*



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**Jaclyn Colfax** - July 02, 2017 at 03:44 PM

AF

“ *Abel French lit a candle in memory of Susan R. Rigdon*



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**Abel French** - July 02, 2017 at 01:45 PM

AY

“ *Good morning. My prayers and condolences to Mel n her children and grandchildren. She will be missed. Lord bless her on her journey home. Love you counselor, fren and confidante. She was always their for many.*



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**Amy Yallup** - July 02, 2017 at 12:40 PM

EL

“ *Sending love and prayers!! Sue was one of our dad's(Doug Olney, Sr.) favorite cousins!! Will always cherish our memories of visiting at Aunt Marie's when we were young! She was special and influenced my many years in edducsting our youth!! Love from Glenwood!!*



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**Emma LaVallie** - July 02, 2017 at 12:21 PM

DJ

“ Condolences to the family of Sue, she was an exceptional lady.

Deanna Jim-Juarez, - July 02, 2017 at 10:28 AM

LE

“ Sue has a whole lotta kids that will miss her, being there for us: "Wapato Indian Club", dances @ Filipino Hall, hanging out in her office, taking us roller skating, traveling! RIP! Prayers ((Hugs)) to Polly, Doug & rest of the family! \*\*\*Leoda



Leoda - July 02, 2017 at 01:17 AM

MJ

“ I was sadden to hear of her passing, she will be missed by all who knew her. My thoughts and prayers goes out to the family.  
Megan James and family



Megan James - July 01, 2017 at 09:48 PM

MJ

“ Maggie James sent a virtual gift in memory of Susan R. Rigdon



Maggie James - July 01, 2017 at 09:43 PM

BG

“ *Babs George lit a candle in memory of Susan  
R. Rigdon*



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**Babs George** - July 01, 2017 at 07:03 PM