



## Theodore Wayne Janis

December 24, 1951 - August 5, 2019

Theodore Wayne Janis (Ted), “Wanble Ska,” of Zillah, went home to our Creator, with his wife and two children by his side, after a long courageous battle with cancer on August 5, 2019.

Ted was born December 24, 1951 to Curtis Janis and Bernice (DeSersa) Janis in Pine Ridge, SD. Ted was raised and educated on the Pine Ridge Reservation where he graduated from Oglala Community School in 1970. He was an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

Ted married Maxine Brings Him Back in 1970. In 1977, Ted moved his family to the Yakima Valley where he began his life long career with the Yakama Nation Police Department. After raising their three sons, Ted and Maxine divorced but remained friends and began their new life paths. Ted met and married Janet Delphine Sumner and they brought two children into this world. Ted came from a family of Lakota warriors who believed in the military and service to our country, with direct ancestors serving in several major occupations throughout history. Ted carried on this pattern of service by dedicating his life to serving the community of the Yakama Nation as a police officer.

Ted loved being a police officer, serving most of his years in the patrol division, working at night. He was fortunate enough to serve in the role of detective, sergeant, and finally a lieutenant. After nearly 35 years of dedicated service to the Yakama Nation, Ted retired as a lieutenant in June of 2013.

Ted was very proud to see his two eldest sons, Craig and Chad, follow in his

legacy, as they dedicated their careers to service of others through law enforcement. Craig began his career with the Yakama Nation Police Department proudly serving alongside his father, he is now a Special Agent with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Chad started at the Wapato Police Department, and now serves as a Lieutenant with the City of Yakima Police Department. Ted's eldest grandson, Jonathon, is a police officer with the Isleta Pueblo Police Department in Albuquerque, NM. Ted's youngest son, Braydan, is planning a career in law enforcement to continue to honor their dad's legacy. Curtis was blessed with Ted's caring spirit and handyman ability as he works as a construction worker. Chantz inherited her father's compassion and ability to teach, she will honor her dad's wishes for her by becoming an educator.

Ted was quiet and humble in life, enjoying hunting, fishing, and spending time with his horses alongside his daughter, Chantz. In his later years, he was a dedicated guardian of the television, watching and re-watching his favorite television shows. Ted loved all his family immensely and protected them without hesitation. He was an amazing husband, father, papa, brother, friend, and protector. Heaven has truly gained an Angel.

Ted is survived by his wife of 26 years, Janet (Sumner) Janis, their two children, Braydan Dax Janis and his daughter, and precious namesake, Chantz Tei W. Janis. He is also survived by his three sons from his first marriage: Craig (Nicole), Chad (Julia) and Curtis (Vanessa) Janis; adopted daughter, Amy Gallardo; grandchildren, Jonathan, Kristopher, Zachery, Ryker, MazzyRainn, Daisy, Carlos, Santana, Diego, "lil" Craig, Elijah, Maliyah, Chaytan, and one great grandson, Braxton; his sister, Beverly Wermey, brothers, Ronald and Franklin Janis; "hunaka" (adopted) brother, David DeSersa and "hunaka" sister, Ladine Hawk Wing-Carroll; sister in law, Carmen Rodriguez, nephew, Billy Joel Janis (Shawna), and niece, Angie Williams. Special people and relatives include: Kristie Rice-Janis, Angelique Ochoa, Pat and Shirley Littlefield, Jimmy Shike, Pete Pipe, the Tom and Darlene Shortbull family, the Morris and Arvine Brewer family, and all his Janis family on the

Pine Ridge Reservation. Ted was preceded in death by his parents, Curtis and Bernice, grandparents: Francis and Cora Bird Necklace Janis, Alex DeSersa and Angeline Turning Holy Standing Elk; brother, William (Bill) Janis, and brother in law, Ronald Wemy.

The Janis family would like to offer a special thanks to Dr. Don Kruse, Kathy Littlebull, and Melissa Rogers of YN Indian Health Service for the extraordinary care given above and beyond. Also, Eulices Figueroa, Colleen Roth, Leslie Stump, Anna and Leroy Senator, Socorro Jimenez, and Keith and Kelly Yamane, for the unconditional love and support shown to our family from the very beginning and throughout these difficult times.

Services will be held at 11:00 am Friday, August 16, 2019, at Colonial Funeral Home in Toppenish with a luncheon to follow at the Yakama Nation Correctional Complex.

TRIBAL 1242 ..... 10-7

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG **16**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Colonial Funeral Home  
228 S. Alder  
Toppenish, WA

# Tribute Wall



“ Theodore Wayne Janis

October 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Theodore Wayne Janis.



August 14, 2019 at 11:52 PM



“ Carmen Janis and Billy Janis and Family purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Theodore Wayne Janis.



**Carmen Janis and Billy Janis and Family** - August 14, 2019 at 08:54 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Theodore Wayne Janis.



August 14, 2019 at 07:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Theodore Wayne Janis.*



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August 14, 2019 at 12:59 PM



“ *Prayers and condoelences Janet, Brayden, Chantz and the Boys. Sorry to hear of the loss of Ted who dedicated his life to service of the Yakama Nation as Law Enforcement. Fly High Ted and watch over your wonderful family!❤️*

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**Dawn Magee-Cobell** - August 13, 2019 at 10:59 AM

RJ

*I was saddened to learn the passing of a brother of the blues. Rest in peace always my friend. No more illness and work is all over. Thru the years of working side by side in law enforcement we shared much. Some days hard days, but you always kept professional, emotions, aside. Could talk to anybody, I admired that. Never talked down, but talked with them. I am proud that your career served the Yakama Nation and community. For decades. Shared so much with us, thank you.*

*To Maxine, thank you for always being a friend, no matter what was going on. My friend, continue to take care of the families. God bless you.*

*To Jan, my sister, I love you and the families. You always was there to help me when I needed it. Today, if ever you need my help, I am here. You were a good wife and good parent. You and Ted were very special to many of us. Our own little jokes to brighten our days.*

*Children, your father was proud of each of you and loved each of you. Always know he is with you in your heart all the time.*

*I still think of you as 1223. Many years of service. Many lives you shared with us. Stories, jokes, what ever helped our shifts go better. Today I say 'latter 'to a special man, a friend, a brother. Rest well, you deserve the best. Always.*

*Prayers & love always.*

*10-7, 10-42, Out.*

*1281 R. JERRY*

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**Regina jerry** - August 14, 2019 at 04:38 AM

SR

“ *Your stories and memories of UFO's will be missed, now you do not have to be scared to travel Satus Pass.. You will be missed as a friend and co worker. Selena*

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**Selena Randall** - August 12, 2019 at 06:31 PM

GM

“ To the family of Officer Janis I wish to express my condolences for your loss of a true protector of the community, our loss is heavens gain.

To Craig I once had a talk with your dad, he was as proud a father I've ever seen because you had joined him on the YAkama Nation PD

He didn't know me so he asked how I knew you? I told him we play softball together for the Reservation Suns, he laughed and said Craig says you guys are pretty good.

What I haven't said is we met when my home was burglarized and my wife walked in and scared them. I left work Fort Simcoe, when I got home Officer Janis was waiting, so grateful he did because I walked by him grabbed my bat and went to the punks house, officer Janis followed me and kept me from making bad decision.

I also had the pleasure of working with Jaidee at Job Corps

A true role model.

Gary ( Tonks)Marceau

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**Gary Marceau** - August 12, 2019 at 07:17 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Theodore Wayne Janis.



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August 12, 2019 at 01:18 AM

RS

“ I want Craig Janis & Chad Janis that I’ve had long 40 years knowing and with your father with Yakama Nation Police Department. I seen both of you when you were little. And now your both man now. I know understand about building a bond with officers when out calls. Covering each other. I remember your father in many ways as being strong. A person that has been there for others. Your father has been my friend both off & on duty. I say these words to both. My prayers go out to both of you. Your father will always be remembered in my life just as you two boys will.

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**rueben sandoval** - August 10, 2019 at 05:59 PM

SU

“ Condolences to the family. Thankful for the years he had served in our community.



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**Susan** - August 09, 2019 at 01:29 PM

LS

“ Lisa Scott-Hosteen lit a candle in memory of Theodore Wayne Janis



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**Lisa Scott-Hosteen** - August 09, 2019 at 01:08 PM

SW

“ *Shasta Olney Watlamet lit a candle in memory of Theodore Wayne Janis*



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**Shasta Olney Watlamet** - August 09, 2019 at 11:22 AM

AH

“ *576 to #1242 SGT. T. Janis, 10-7 you will be missed forever!!! #1276 out.. I know the Yakama Reservation was truly blessed to have you protect and serve our community.. Prayers to #1239 and the rest of officers who served with you. say hello to #1234 K. Hoptowit..*

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**Agnes Hudson** - August 08, 2019 at 04:42 PM

LJ

“ *Rest in peace. You were an awesome man and great father. Till we meet again on the otherside. May the great creator bring comfort and love to your family.*



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**Lewis Janis** - August 08, 2019 at 04:23 PM

BT

“ *Condolences to a kind grandfather.*



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**Beatrice Tahkeal-Slome** - August 08, 2019 at 02:08 PM



“ *Patti Smith lit a candle in memory of Theodore Wayne Janis*



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**Patti Smith** - August 08, 2019 at 01:51 PM

DE

“ *Danielle Ermey lit a candle in memory of Theodore Wayne Janis*



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**Danielle Ermey** - August 08, 2019 at 12:12 PM

JE

“ *Jolene Elwell lit a candle in memory of Theodore Wayne Janis*



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**jolene elwell** - August 08, 2019 at 11:12 AM

CR

“ *Ted will be terribly missed! He was the rock for his wife and kids, a devoted family man watching and caring for them every minute. He left a strong and caring wife JaiDee and two children still at home! Hugs Janis family! RIP Ted!*



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**Colleen Roth** - August 08, 2019 at 10:37 AM



*Oh Colleen... He adored you so much, more than you know. ❤️❤️❤️*

**JaiDee Sumner-Janis** - August 11, 2019 at 10:36 AM

SC

*“ Thank you for your service to the Yakama Nation and our community here on the Yakama reservation. You fulfilled your duties here on earth, may you forever Rest in Peace.*



**Sandra Celestine** - August 07, 2019 at 10:38 PM

BO

*“ Bernice Owens sent a virtual gift in memory of Theodore Wayne Janis*



**Bernice Owens** - August 07, 2019 at 05:55 PM

VA

*“ Vanessa lit a candle in memory of Theodore Wayne Janis*



**Vanessa** - August 06, 2019 at 03:19 PM