



Wendell L Hannigan

April 12, 1943 - November 2, 2025

Wendell Lee Hannigan, Yúumt-pi, of Toppenish, Washington, passed away surrounded by his loved ones on November 2, 2025, at the age of 82. He was born on April 12, 1943, the fifth child of Elizabeth George Yallup and Martin Hannigan.

Wendell attended White Swan High School, where he graduated with honors. In 1965, he enlisted in the United States Army and proudly served as an Indigenous Vietnam War Veteran. Following his military service, he furthered his education at Washington State University. Upon returning home, Wendell dedicated his life to serving his people and community. He became a strong advocate for the unheard within the Yakama Nation and had a remarkable ability to speak with wisdom and conviction that left a lasting impact.

In 1995, Wendell took the Oath of Office to the Yakama Tribal Council, promising to uphold, preserve, and protect the Yakama Nation. Throughout his life, he remained deeply committed to community service, devoting countless hours to numerous committees that benefited his people. Wendell gave his heart to his work and took pride in every role he held.

As a young boy, Wendell followed his mother to the Shaker Church and later became active at the Toppenish Creek Longhouse. Following unwritten laws shaped his love for Mother Earth. He often ventured into the mountains with his brothers to hunt, gather, and cut wood. As a Yakama leader, he officiated and drummed for many waashat ceremonies and was often called upon by Sacred Road missionaries, Chris and Mary Granberry, whose work on the Yakama Reservation led to a lasting friendship.

Outside of his traditional life, Wendell was a loyal fan of the Seattle Mariners and Seahawks. During or after each game, he would pick up the phone to call his brothers, sharing laughter and lively discussions about the plays.

Wendell is survived by his son Marshall Hannigan and stepson Prescott Speedis; his siblings, Lee Hannigan, George Lee, and Mable Pacheco; and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews. He is also remembered by numerous extended family members and friends who will carry his memory forward.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents; siblings; the mother of his children, Naomi Bill; and his children, Martin Speedis, Elliott Speedis, Tanya D. Olney, and Shane L.E. Hannigan.

Wendell will be remembered for his strength, wisdom, and unwavering care for others — for his contagious laughter, his love for his people, and for always saying, “I love you more.”

Cemetery Details

Toppenish Creek Cemetery

White Swan, WA

Previous Events

Dressing Services

NOV 5. 11:00 AM (PT)

Toppenish Creek Longhouse
Pom Pom Road off Signal Peak turn left at Log Church
White Swan, WA

Overnight Service

NOV 5. 7:00 PM (PT)

Toppenish Creek Longhouse
Pom Pom Road off Signal Peak turn left at Log Church
White Swan, WA

Sunrise Burial

NOV 6 (PT)

Toppenish Creek Cemetery
off Signal Peak road
White Swan,, WA

Tribute Wall

MW

“ Our deepest condolences to his beautiful family!
Wendell had so much love for his people and he always wanted to preserve the land on the Yakama Nation Reservation from ground water contamination. He was a huge advocate to protect the reservation.

Thank you for everything you did we will all be so grateful to you.



Mary Ann Walker - November 10, 2025 at 10:16 PM

GM

“ My sincere love and condolences to Wendell's family and friends. I enjoyed playing stickgames with him. He was a very close friend of my husband, Robert McKay.

Gerrie McKay - November 05, 2025 at 09:09 PM

KP

“ My condolences to his family & friends. RIP & enjoy Paradise.



karen pinkham - November 05, 2025 at 03:02 PM

LS

“ *My condolences to his family, I enjoyed sitting with him as a Golden Eagle advisory member loved his knowledge of sharing traditional ways!!*



LENORA A SPINO - November 04, 2025 at 08:26 PM

RJ

Grew up in the 1910, this Big Brother and all of his old laws were active members and did so much for the holidays. I can recall live chicks, rabbits, and ducks for Easter, that was cool! He shared much history and his teachings will be history for those coming behind him. Safe journey. Rest and enjoy Paradise. Condolences to Marshall and Prescott and families. God's blessings to all

Regina Jerry - November 04, 2025 at 10:54 PM

RJ

Misspell, it's supposed to be in laws, not old laws. Sorry.

Regina Jerry - November 04, 2025 at 10:55 PM

JS

“ *He will be remembered for helping others when needed. Rest in Peace W.H.*



Julie Sohappy - November 04, 2025 at 07:28 PM

TG

“ *Tiffany Goudy lit a candle in memory of Wendell L Hannigan*



Tiffany Goudy - November 04, 2025 at 06:52 PM

JS

“ *Jeanne Smiskin lit a candle in memory of Wendell L Hannigan*



Jeanne Smiskin - November 04, 2025 at 03:18 PM

TP

“ *I remember how Wendell helped me with my power bill on time and of him taking me to the treaty they celebration in Toppenish one year and of how we went to the Bernie Sanders rally in Yakima in early 2016. He was a good man.*

Thomas F Peterson - November 04, 2025 at 12:56 PM

PB

“ *I remember Wendell as chair of the Yakima Democrats. He was a good chair and a kind man.*

Pat Braten - November 04, 2025 at 12:52 PM

MJ

“ *Maggie James lit a candle in memory of
Wendell L Hannigan*



Maggie James - November 03, 2025 at 06:38 PM

SW

“ *Shasta Watlamet lit a candle in memory of
Wendell L Hannigan*



Shasta Watlamet - November 03, 2025 at 05:15 PM