



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Neeka Somday
509-634-2213

Former Councilmember Kathy Womer Passes Away

(Nespelem, WA) — Kathryn McDonald Womer, known as Kathy, has passed away. She was born in Desautel, WA in 1936 and was 88 years old. Her wake will be held at the Omak longhouse on May 10th, 2024 at 7 p.m., with a funeral at 10 a.m. on May 11th, 2024 at the Omak longhouse.

Kathy served on the Colville Business Council representing the Nespelem District from 1997-1998. She and Joanne Leith were the first councilmembers to attend an inter-tribal meeting at the Priest Rapids longhouse on the return of the Ancient One. In her time on Council, Kathy proved to be a strong supporter of traditional ways and culture. She was a life-long gatherer of berries up and down the Okanogan and Columbia Rivers. She also advocated for first responders on the Colville Reservation.

Kathy was a knowledgeable historian and an adept storyteller. Perhaps inspired by her time on the St. Mary's Mission girls' basketball team, Kathy published a book of poetry about growing up in 2018 called *Haust An PaPa Silth'kn Asil (Beautiful Thoughts)*. She also wrote *The Elders Speak: Stories Chawed by My Mother and Aunt* in 2021, a collection of Coyote tales and *Chaptik* stories.

The Chairman of the Colville Confederated Tribes, Jarred-Michael Erickson, said, "We have lost many elders already this year, and all too soon. We should hear the words of Dottie Marchand, Kathy's sister, who announced her sister's passing and reminded us to appreciate your loved ones because you never know what tomorrow brings. Tribal flags are flying at half-staff in honor of Kathy Womer and her service to the Colville people."

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,215 descendants of 12 aboriginal tribes of Indians are enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of the Colville. The twelve tribes which compose the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation include: ščəlámxəx^w (deep water) or Chelan; walwáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; sǰ^wyǰilp (sharp pointed trees) or Colville; šntiyátk^wx^w (grass in the water) or Entiat; snšáyckst (speckled fish) or Lakes; mətx^wu (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow; škwáxčənəx^w (people living on the bank) or

Moses-Columbia; nspilm (prairie) or Nespelem; uknaqin (seeing over the top) or Okanogan; palúšpam (people from Palouse) or Palus; sənɣ^wilx (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and šnpəšq^wáwsəx^w (people in between) or Wenatchi.