



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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The Colville Tribes Grieves the Passing of Gene Joseph

(Nespelem, WA) — The Colville Tribes is saddened to announce the passing of Colville Tribal member Gene Harley Joseph. He was 76 years old.

Gene Joseph served on the Colville Business Council for approximately 20 years, intermittently, from 1983-2010. Gene was known as a fierce advocate, especially on the topics of preserving tribal sovereignty and water rights. He played an instrumental role in safeguarding tribal sovereignty during the passage of Public Law 280.

Gene served in the U.S. Army as a third-generation soldier. He leaves behind a large family. They remember that if Gene teased you, he liked you. Gene's close friend Mel Tonasket remembers him as highly intelligent, with a great capacity to analyze and process information. His nephew, Darnell Sam, also recalls Gene's intellect as well as his passions for horse racing and cars. Gene obtained 4 degrees even after retirement and had a passion for learning.

The dressing will occur today, September 26, at 2 p.m. at Strate Funeral Home, followed by a wake tonight at 7 p.m. at the Nespelem longhouse. The funeral will be tomorrow, September 27, at 10 a.m. at the Nespelem longhouse, with veteran's services. Tribal employees who wish to attend the funeral are permitted to do so.

Colville Business Council Chairman Jarred-Michael Erickson said, "The Colville Tribes has lost a warrior with the passing of Gene Joseph. Gene remained an advocate for his people long after his retirement, right up to his final days. We will always remember Gene for his service to his country and to the Colville Tribes."

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,237 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; wal'wáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; sǰ'w'yǰiłp (sharp pointed trees) or

Colville; šntíyátk^{wəx} (grass in the water) or Entiat; snŋáyckst (speckled fish) or Lakes; mət^{xu} (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; sənpŋ^{wilx} (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and šnpəšq^{wáwsəx} (people in between) or Wenatchi.