

TO MY GRANDMA

THANK YOU FOR BEING A BLESSING IN MY LIFE

I want to take a moment and let you know how much you are appreciated.

You are a true angel to me, and I'm more grateful to you

★ ★ ★ than words can express. ★ ★ ★

Few people possess the considerate, unselfish, and even fewer are willing to give so much of themselves.

I thank you for your kindness and for being the wonderful,

→ amazing person you are. →



Wakan Tanka great spirit, take care of her, she lived a wonderful life with us, your life duties are complete. I'm forever thankful that I got blessed to have you as my kungsi. I know you're reunited with unkana ⚡️. In our hearts, you will forever be.

Toksá Aké, Mahpiya Tokah Win ♥️

Forever Loved, Forever In Our Hearts Our Precious Pauline

*A Very Loving Mother, Grandmother,
Great Grandmother, Sister, Niece,
Auntie, Cousin and Friend*

Pauline E. Merrick

BEGAN HER EARTHLY JOURNEY

Thursday, December 14, 1933

Fort Totten, North Dakota

BEGAN WANAGITA' CANKU TO THE STAR NATION

Thursday, February 22, 2024

St. Michael, North Dakota

WAKE AND PRAYER SERVICE

St. Michael's Wellness Center

St. Michael, North Dakota

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Rosary and Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

St. Michael's Catholic Church

St. Michael, North Dakota

Thursday, February 29, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.

CELEBRANT

Reverend Paul Schuster

DRUM GROUPS

White Horse Hill Singers

All Drummers and Singers are welcome to share their songs in memory of Pauline

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Jasonn LaRock ~ Scott Jetty ~ Joe Yankton

Derrick Jackson Jr. ~ Preston Danks

Brady Walford ~ Dalen Leftbear ~ Deng Deng

Fulton Merrick Jr. ~ Eric Belgarde

LAID TO REST

St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery

St. Michael, North Dakota

Next to her husband Frank in the spring.

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

*Catherine Howard
Darlene Wadsworth
Astel Cavanaugh
Mary Greene-Trotter*

ReNa Lohnes

*Barbara and Joe Jackson
Clarice and Josie Lawrence*

Helena Littleghost

Roberta Littleghost

Renita and Bud Shaw

Marva Tollefson

Jeneane Littleghost

Frances Greyhorn

Belle Lawrence

Nataha Gourd

Rose LeBeau

Corbette McKay

Marty Jackson

Bonnie Leftbear and Families

Valarie and Lawrence bull

Richard and Lonna Street

Evelyn Kimberly Young

Dedrick Robertson

Tracy "Buzz" Charboneau-Chase

Renita Delorme

Oliver Gourd Sr.

John and Mona Chaske

Annette Lenoir

Jeanetta Jackson

Mathais Jackson

Mary Thompson

Roger Yankton

Audrey Belgarde

Crystal Thompson

Meada Jetty

Sarah Cavanaugh

Phyllis Dubois

Spirit Lake Dakota

Transportation Program

Special thank you to Audie Swiftbird for singing prayer songs to her during her final days, Lois and Keith Leben and Families, Fred Longie Jr. and Pete Dauphinais Jr. for helping with the firewood and to everyone who prayed and shared their condolences. If we left anyone out it was unintentional.

Remembering the life of...

Pauline C. Merrick - Mahpiya Tokah Win “She’s a leader in heaven”, the Matriarch of the MatoCatka Tiwahe 90, of St. Michael ND began her wanagi ta’canku to the Star nation on Thursday, February 22, 2024, with her loving family at her side.

Pauline began her earthly journey on December 14, 1933, to Sarah Hopkins and Simon Leftbear at the hospital in Fort Totten ND, the youngest of their two (2) children. She was the granddaughter of Chief MatoCatka of the Wahpeton band. She was raised by her aunt Martha Glazer in Tokio, ND and was educated at boarding schools in St. Michael’s Indian Mission and Stephan, SD. During school she enjoyed playing basketball with her classmate Lilly Owlboy. Her memorable childhood memories were dancing at the local pow wows.

On July 14, 1953, she was united in marriage to Frank Merrick and to this union was born four (4) children Deborah, Brenda, Fulton and Catherine. The family relocated to Los Angeles, California for several years and then to Chicago, Illinois, where they would gainfully work and raise their children. In 1969, the family returned back home to Spirit Lake due to her aunt Martha’s car accident. At this time, Pauline cared for her sister, brothers and aunt until she recovered. Her aunt Martha was the President of the Lone Buffalo Club and also organized the fundraising efforts. Pauline was an active member of the Club and appreciated helping her aunt.

Pauline and Frank established their home in St. Michael, ND. They were foster parents and welcomed their home to many children including raising Dennis Johnson. She was a stay at home mother who was devoted to her family and took pride in their homestead. Pauline enjoyed traveling to pow wows, and could always pick a winner for the drum and dance contests. She bowled and participated in many bowling leagues locally and in Chicago. Pauline pitched and played softball until she was 51 years old. She was a very fluent speaker in her Dakota language and loved listening to pow wow and prayer songs.

After nearly 61 years of marriage her husband Frank passed away in 2014. Her recent favorite memory was when the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara (MHA) 2022 Little Shell Celebration honored and flown her husband Frank’s United States Army flag. She was proud of her husband’s military service.

Pauline was a widow of a World War II Veteran. She lived a humble and beautiful life. She believed in the Dakota values of Fortitude, Courage, Generosity, and Wisdom. She served as a good example of a strong inspirational Dakota woman. Although Kumsi Pauline may no longer walk beside us, her spirit and strength will be with us always. She was a blessing to us all.

Toksa Ake, Mahpiya Tokah Win.

She is survived by her loving family: Her daughter Catherine (James) Yankton; sister: Mona Leftbear; God daughters: Melissa Merrick Brady, Rayanne and Maddy Leaf, aunt: Cora Rose Sherman; nieces: Trudy (Clint) Laroque, Bonnie Leftbear, Mary Rose Lebeau, Julie Brathovde, Cora Whiteman, Catalina (Terry) Herman, Larissa, Danielle, and Tanisha Leftbear, Merle Botone Nephews: Wesley Young, Austin and Nathan Smith, Bruce and John Whiteman, Sam Merrick Sr., Carl Merrick, Raymond Merrick Jr., Phillip “Skip” Longie Sr. and 21 Takoza’s, and 30 great Takoza’s and many great-great Takoza’s. Special hunka daughter: Arlene Keahna and families, Tama, Iowa, and hunka sisters: Helena Littleghost and Clara Begay, Tempe, Arizona. Extended Leftbear families in Sioux Valley, Manitoba; Dianne Taylor and families.

She is reunited in the star nation with her parents, husband Frank, children: Deborah Morsette, Brenda Merrick and Fulton Merrick, granddaughter: Deborah Yankton, great-grandson: Audie Swiftbird Jr., sister: Evelyn (Gabe) Young, brothers: Miles and Jonah Leftbear, aunt: Martha, uncle: John Leftbear, sister in law: Mary Rose (John) Brathvode, and nephews: Dean and Jay Young and other family members too numerous to mention.

IN LOVING MEMORY



Pauline Merrick

Mahpiya Tokah Win

“She’s a leader in heaven”

Sunrise: December 14th 1944

Sunset: February 22nd 2024