



Darrell "Chip" Wadena Sr

November 23, 1938 - June 24, 2014

Darrell "Chip" Wadena Sr., age 75, of Naytahwaush, MN, died on Tuesday, June 24, 2014, at Vibra Hospital in Fargo, ND.

Darrell Eugene Wadena, son of John and Mary (Peabody) Wadena, was born on November 23, 1938, in White Earth, MN. He was raised in Naytahwaush and attended school there. Chip entered the United States Army and following his discharge, he returned to the Naytahwaush, area. On November 7, 1962, Chip was united in marriage to Bonnie Londo at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Naytahwaush. Chip worked for a time at American Crystal Sugar in East Grand Forks, and then began building bridges with Swingen Construction Company. He returned to Naytahwaush and started working with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Construction Company and in 1974 he was elected District II Representative. In 1976, Chip successfully ran for Tribal Chairman and served the White Earth Reservation for 20 years. He began his political career at a time when there minimal tribal employees and very few available resources. He was instrumental in the development of the Shooting Star Casino, the White Earth Health Center, and a multitude of programs that are still available today. He was passionate about politics and the Native American people. Chip enjoyed traveling and building relationships with other political leaders. In his quiet time, he liked to do crossword puzzles and spend time with his grandchildren. He was also active with "The Tribe" softball team that he founded and avidly followed. Following Bonnie's death in 2001, Chip continued living in their home near Naytahwaush. During the last several

years of his retirement, Chip kept himself busy working at the Golden Eagle Bingo Hall in Mahanomen.

Chip is survived by four sons: Tony (Tammy), Darrell "Smokey" (Michelle), Shannon "Sam" (Lisa), and David, all of Naytahwaush; three daughters: Ann (Mike) Brown, Tracy Wadena, and Serena Opegard, all of Naytahwaush; 27 grandchildren; 31 great grandchildren; two sisters, Thelma (Ron) Coleman and Mavis Bush; as well as many in-laws and extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Bonnie; seven brothers; four sisters; and a granddaughter, Shep Brown.

Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Anne's Catholic Church, Naytahwaush. An all night Visitation will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 27 at the Naytahwaush Sports Complex, with a Prayer Service held at 7:00 p.m.

Interment will be held at St. Anne's Catholic Cemetery, Naytahwaush.

Tribute Wall

YN

“ *Our condolences & prayers for the loss of you father & grandfather.*

Yvonne Novack - July 05, 2014 at 02:40 PM

SS

“ *Dear family, I remember being with your Mom the night she was dying. Know we Sisters will remember you in our prayers. May you be at peace. S. Jean*

Sister Jean Schwartz - June 30, 2014 at 10:56 AM

AW

“ *My condolences for your loss. Chip was a great man and made quite the impression...truly a wonderful, one of a kind person. May he rest in peace in a well deserved paradise.*

Amanda Wadena - June 28, 2014 at 12:39 PM

LL

“ *My Heart to out to the Wadena & Londo Family in your time of need, My prayers are with you as you go though these next few days Larry Londo and all the Londo's Cousin to Bonnie*

Larry Londo - June 27, 2014 at 10:32 PM

JM

“ *My sympathy for your loss. I enjoyed Chip's smile immensely, he will be missed!*

Jo Mittet - June 27, 2014 at 03:54 PM

DF

“ Chip will be greatly missed by all that got to know him and in his life time and by the ones that got to know him from his wonderful work he did for our rez and the jobs he helped our people get at thee shooting star casino and bingo hall in mahnomen minn

David Hill & Donna Roy Hill Family - June 27, 2014 at 03:20 PM

DW

“ My heart goes out to all family! Prayers and hugs to you! Chip was a great man and it was a honor and privileged to know him!

Derek and Rocksann Weiby - June 26, 2014 at 01:03 PM

PM

“ My condolences to the family and pray the Holy Spirit comforts you. No more suffering, no more tears, only joy and he is with his loved ones that went on before. I remember all the good he did and he stood in the gap for WE nation for many years. Psalm 126:5-6 they that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.
Chi-miigwech Pat M

Pat Moran - June 26, 2014 at 12:17 PM

DH

“ Chip and Bonnie were friends with my Dad and his wife Vernie and Lucille and Don Goodwin. As a teen in Mahnomen I got to know Ann and Tracy, Smokey and Sam. Bonnie was the sweetest, kindest, generous person to me and I cherished her hugs. Chip and my dad and Don would always tease each other about all kinds of issues of the time and although they didn't think it was funny, to me, I'd listen and chuckle....Bonnie loved her husband Chip and I'm guessing rightly that she is waiting at the Spirit World entrance for him. My condolences to Ann, Tracy, Smokey and Sam and all his family, the end of an era....

DeLinda HisGun - June 26, 2014 at 12:57 AM

JG

“ Goodbye old friend. Now you are reunited with Bonnie. My prayers go with you. Condolences to your family.

Jan Goodin - June 25, 2014 at 09:08 PM

AM

“ Chip was a wonderful man. He did a lot of good for everyone. He loved the tribe. He adored his family. He was also a good friend to many. May he rest in peace with Bonnie and watch over us all. My deepest sympathy to all who loved Chip. God bless you and I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.

Ashley Magnuson - June 25, 2014 at 09:06 PM

KR

“ I am praying for you in this difficult time of such a great loss in your lives.

Kris Ruchti - June 25, 2014 at 07:32 PM

TB

“ Sending my thoughts and prayers to all of you as you say your earthly good-byes to Chip. He was a wonderful man who successfully took care of our people of the White Earth Nation! He will be deeply missed on Earth, but Heaven has gained another angel. I will burn sage in memory of Chip for a peaceful journey into the spirit world! God Bless all of you at this very difficult time. Peace, Tami.

Tami Barnick - June 25, 2014 at 04:11 PM

KB

“ I send a heartfelt sympathy to Chippies Family. Remember your good times with him. He is a loss to a large Family. Love Kay & Eddie Bengtson (Cousin to Londo's)

Kay Bengtson - June 25, 2014 at 04:07 PM

JR

“ Hugs and Prayers to the Family, it is hard to loss a dad, and grandpa. Chip was a good man, a generous man, he did take care of his people, his family, and he was a caring man! RIP Chip!

Jennie Reyes - June 25, 2014 at 03:47 PM

JO

“ My prayers go out to the family.

julie oliver - June 25, 2014 at 02:55 PM

BS

“ I'm so very sorry for this great loss in your family. Ill be thinking of you all during this time...RIP Chip

Beth Kay Sanchez - June 25, 2014 at 01:29 PM

LB

“ Our family is sorry for your lose of your Father. Your Father was a very good man. He always took the time to visit with a person, and no matter if he had to be some where. He will truly be missed in the community. God be with you all.

Bellanger family

Linda Bellanger-Rethwisch - June 25, 2014 at 11:15 AM