

Nadine Martha Van Mechelen

May 21, 2020



Born in Crescent City, California, raised on Klamath River and in Crescent City.

Nadine comes from a long line of Yurok Traditional Medicine and Ceremonial Leaders/ Fire Keepers from the Village of Rekwoi and the House of La'yeq located where the Klamath River meets the Pacific Ocean in the heart of Redwood Trees. Nadine is a Yurok Tribal Member.

She was a well-known Native Doll Maker whose dolls can be found throughout the world. She loved traveling to Native Art Markets throughout the Nation and meeting other Native artist and visiting with people she met.

She lived with her husband John for 52 years in Pendleton, Oregon on the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation. She raised her children and developed lifelong friendships here. Nadine and John appreciated and were thankful that the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla embraced and accepted their family. Nadine owned and operated Wind Song Gallery where she featured Native Artists in downtown Pendleton.

She enjoyed traveling with her husband to New Zealand and throughout the States and home to Klamath to visit with her family.

She loved searching through Native Art Magazines for ideas for her doll making and looking at Home and Garden magazines for recipes, garden and house decorating ideas. She also enjoyed sitting on her porch looking at her flowers, listening to birds and watching the deer passing through her yard.

Nadine had many close friends who she loved and who loved her including: Jimmy and Ervin Markham, Marie Dick, Virginia and Art Kruger, Nancy Niord, Karen Been, Sherri Moffet, Rosetta and Bruce Comstock, Margie Gunshow, and Margret Sams.

Nadine and her family offer a special appreciation to Yellow Hawk Health Clinic doctors and nurses and St. Mary's Hospital doctors and nurses for their wonderful and compassionate care. Thank you to Lavina Bowers, Susan Masten, Ciera Klopmeier and Jimmy Markham for taking care of Nadine.

Nadine is preceded in death by her parents; Geneva and Emery Mattz, brothers; Jack, Emery, and Tony, sisters; Betty and Janet, Son David Franklin and daughter Diana Van Mechelen, Grandchildren; Jeremy and Charlie Franklin.

Survived by; husband John Van Mechelen, sons; Vincent Matlock, John Franklin and Paul Van Mechelen, Sister/friend Lavina Bowers; brothers Marvin and Raymond Mattz, grandchildren; Ashley Matlock, Stephanie Weldon, John Franklin JR., McKenzie and Shelby Franklin, Ciera and Grant Klopmeier, Paul Jr., Amanda, Kyle, and Mason Van Mchelen, great grandchildren; Kacen Zeckman, River, Truth and Wisdom Van Mchelen, Nakia Matlock, Donald and Cecilia Moore, Dorea, Deane, and Kyson Brown, Sam and Jeremy Jones, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins who loved her.

A private Family Burial was held.