

Zana (Ender) Finley

January 23, 2024

Zana (Ender) Finley of Klamath, CA passed away in the evening hours of Tuesday, January 9, 2024. In her last days she was surrounded by children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and dear friends. She was a beloved member of the community who was well known for her kindness and generosity. In her final days, those around her shared many memories of this spirit.

She was born to Augustine (Hernandez) Ender and Catherine (Chavez) Ender on May 23, 1941 in Fort Washakie, Wyoming on the Wind River Indian Reservation. After graduating from Browning High School on the Blackfeet Reservation she attended the University of Montana. During High School she worked at Snell Trading Post which led to her passion for Native Arts. For most of her adult life, she supported herself both with her own beadwork and by buying and selling the work of other Indigenous artists. She owned Kachina Trading Post in Oakland, California, sold at pow-wows and other cultural events and supplied other dealers.

A member of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe, Zana was passionate about advancing the rights of her people. In 1978, Zana participated in The Longest Walk, an effort to raise awareness about threats to tribal lands and water rights. She was one of a small number to complete the full walk from San Francisco to Washington D.C. She served as one of the organizers and was responsible for traveling to towns in advance of the walkers' arrival to make the necessary arrangements.

Most of her years were spent on the Yurok Reservation with her partner Frankie Erickson and their family. Together they fought for fishing rights, supported their family and were very involved in the tribal community. Their favorite time was spent at their "camp" in Shregon.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Augustine and Catherine Ender of Lander, WY; her brother Augustine Ender Jr.; her partner Frankie Erickson of Klamath, CA; her grandson Willis "Weasel" Mann of Fort Washakie, WY; and her cousin/brother Greg Pacheco of Fort Washakie, WY.

She is survived by her sister Zola Nichols (Costa) and family; her daughters Carla Schildt Mann (Jimmy), Shannon Finley, and Theresia Erickson (Erika); her son Frank Erickson; her grandchildren Joshua "Boogie" Mann, Brian Mann, Patrick Erickson, Jade Erickson and Bear Mueller; and her great grandchildren Kyler and Kimber Mann.

After services for Zana in her cherished Redwoods of California and she will be brought home to her people in Wyoming for burial.

A visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at Paul's Chapel in Arcata, CA. The visitation will be followed by a celebration of life from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Blue Lake Casino in Blue Lake, CA.

A traditional service will be held for Zana at Hudson's Chapel in Lander, Wyoming at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 19th. A feast will take place immediately after the memorial service. She will be buried at Mount Hope Cemetery next to her grandson, Weasel.

Zana's family invites you to join them at these events to both celebrate her life and to pray for her as she makes her journey to be with her ancestors.