

Her Journey's Just Begun

Don't think of her as gone away
her journey's just begun.
Life holds so many facets
this earth is only one.

Just think of her as resting
from the sorrows and the tears.
In a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days or years.

Think how she must be wishing
that we could know today.
How nothing but our sadness
can really pass away.

And think of her as living
in the hearts of those she touched...
For nothing loved is ever lost
and she was loved so much.



Honoured to serve the family of Josy Russell
To send a condolence, please visit our website at
www.cornerstonefuneralhome.com | 403-381-7777 (24/7)



cherishing the memory of

Josy Russell

"AANATSIPI'KSAAKI"
Beautiful Bird Woman

MARCH 1, 1946 - MAY 21, 2021

The Giver of Life called home an angel who touched the lives of so many through her kindness, caring and generosity. Josy Russell passed away peacefully at the Calgary Foothills hospital in Calgary. Left to mourn is her daughter Tonya (Jason), grandchildren Alexandria, Dylan, Bryton (Katie), Cayden (Sarah), great-grandchildren Sebastian, Tristan and brother, Charles Madl.

Throughout her lifetime, Josy dedicated her life to family, relatives and friends who cherished her love of life and closeness to those she came into contact with. She loved her children immensely and was extremely heart-broken when her eldest Todd passed away. Her daughter Tonya was a pillar of strength during these sad times, and Josy loved her daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren with all her heart.

Josy was born and educated on the Kainai First Nation in southern Alberta. She later transferred to Lethbridge, AB., where she completed her high school and after taking a break from school, she worked for various Treaty 7 communities where she was involved in educational development programs. It was only after she married and when her two young children were of school age was when Josy decided to enroll in an education program at the University of Calgary. She was so proud of her accomplishment after graduating with a B.Ed Degree in 1977.

Josy jumped right back into the workforce, serving as the On-Campus Director of the Native Services Program and the Educational Foundation Program at the University of Calgary. From there, she was invited to develop and manage Nakoda Lodge on the Stoney First Nation. She later accepted a teaching position with the Canadian Rockies School Division in 1988 up until 2007. Josy's last work position was with the Alberta Government in a managerial capacity that encompassed a wide range of educational programs that were designed and developed to assist to promote educational success for First Nations, Metis and Inuit students enrolled in school jurisdictions in southern Alberta.

Josy retired from her position as the Senior Education Manager with Alberta Education in 2012. She remained employed, though, in a part-time position with Alberta Education as a Panel Member for the Attendance Board. It was a role Josy found very rewarding as it gave Aboriginal students and parents a voice that created a better understanding and appreciation of First Nation's, Metis and Inuit students. Throughout her life, Josy remained deeply committed to bridging the gap between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations.

Josy was always so proud of her life as a proud Blackfoot woman. She was often called upon as an elder and later as a retiree where she selflessly volunteered her time and attention in the areas where her life's work and experiences enriched and assisted those in need.

Josy was deeply respected and loved by her family and relatives from the Russell and Fox families. She was especially close to her sisters and brothers: Joyce First Rider, Rosaline Crowshoe, Dolly Creighton, Audrey White Quills, the late Arabella Creighton, the late Phyllis Fox; brothers Pat (Rose) Fox, Larry (Donna) Fox and the late Jonas Fox, Wilfred Soop and her brother Charles Madl. She is also survived by aunts: Lucy (late Camille) Russell, Clara (late Francis) Russell and Stella (late Leo) Russell.

Josy was predeceased by her mother Laura (Karl) Madl, father John (Gertrude) Fox and her son Todd Russell.

Josy loved to travel to places and destinations both local and far away. She travelled to England, Hawaii, Jamaica, across Canada and the U.S.A. as a way of enriching and satisfying her interests in other people and their culture and traditions. She loved her music, listening to a variety of genres including Classical, Opera, and oldies and watching movies -- Seabiscuit was her favorite. She was also a collector of art, coins, pottery and butterflies.

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Prayer Service

Friday, June 4, 2021, at 5:00 PM
Cornerstone Funeral Home
2825 - 32nd Ave South, Lethbridge, Alberta

Officiant- Father William Monis
Reader - Joyce First Rider

First Reading - Isaiah 61:1-3d
Psalm 130
Gospel - John 14:1-7

Hymns
Amazing Grace - The Tennors
Ave Maria - Pavarotti
On Eagles Wings

Wake Service

Friday, June 4, 2021, 6:00 - 10:00 PM
Cornerstone Funeral Home

Officiants - Mike Bruised Head & Maria Russell