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12/09/2013 - Lucille Elizabeth Cornelius

Funeral services for Lucille Elizabeth Cornelius, age 75, of Pine Ridge, South Dakota, will be Monday, December 9, 2013 at 10:00 AM at the Sacred Church in Pine Ridge, South Dakota with Mr. Charles McGaa officiating.

Burial at the Cornelius Family Cemetery at Red Bear Butte, with Richard Broken Nose and Leonard Little Finger officiating.

On Sunday, December 8, 2013 there will be a wake service at 3:00 PM, a supper at 4:30 PM and a rosary at 6 PM at the Sacred Heart Church in Pine Ridge, SD.

Immediate Survivors:

Son: John L. "JT" Cornelius III, Poplar Bluff, MO.

Daughter: Elizabeth Cornelius, Rapid City.

Sisters: Shirley Fresquez, Wolf Creek; Rosemarie Dillingham, Wolf Creek; Judi L. Cornelius, Albuquerque, NM.

Brothers: B. Roger Cornelius, Rapid City; Leonard Little Finger, Oglala and Cornelius. Uncle: Charles E. Trimble, Omaha James A. Hamm, Minneapolis, MN.

Grandchildren: Mikalea, Emily, Eden and Kal El, NE.

Numerous nieces and nephews, grand nieces and nephews and hunka grandchildren.

Lucille was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Christine "Wela" Cornelius, her brother John Lionel Cornelius, Jr., and niece, Leslie Jo Fresquez Walking Elk. Her beloved companion, Sassy, recently made her Spirit Journey.

Lucille Elizabeth Cornelius, "Wicakpi Luta Win - Red Star Woman, was born on December 6, 1937, the first born child of John Lionel, Sr. and Bessie Trimble Cornelius at Pine Ridge, SD. She began her Spirit Journey on December 2, 2013 at Wolf Creek at her parents' home.

Her marriage to Raymond Eugene Pourier ended in divorce.

While Lucille's children, JT and Liz, were not her natural children, they were raised by her from infancy and embrace her as their wonderful mother in every way. Her daughter Liz said, "She was my greatest fan and cheering squad and was quick with supportive words for when life got me down." JT echoes that sentiment, saying she was always there for them and loved them no matter what. And she felt the same way about them. She ended every conversation with them by saying, "I love you and am so proud of you."

At birth, she was given her name "Wicakpi Luta Win" by her maternal grandmother, Lucy Randall Trimble. She has bequeathed that name to her daughter, Liz.

Lucille was a highly sought-after child care provider and helped to raise legions of children, providing loving care for the children of her sisters Shirley and Judi, and for her brother, John. She worked as a waitress and for a number of years she had a house-cleaning business. She also worked for many years in the family food service business, retiring from that work in the 1980s.

Her children and siblings remember Lucille's unparalleled knowledge of music, especially Country Western and old Pop music. She loved those genres but also enjoyed Italian and Irish tenors and gospel music. She knew instruments, artists, lyricists and when songs were created. She had instant recall of all that information and was the family Song Dog – our name for such an expert. She loved word find and jigsaw puzzles, did expert cross

stitch needle work and enjoyed playing cards.

Her family treasured Lucille as the sweetest, dearest person, pure of heart and filled with love. She relished peace and was a passionate believer in equality, loyalty, honesty, generosity and compassion for all her relatives, including the four-legged, winged and water dwelling creatures. She was completely selfless, fiercely protective of her family and a hard-headed realist. She was so sure of her moral compass, that while she would help anyone in any way she could, when she decided not to do something – nothing and nobody could move her. Her son said, “She was a rock and a hard place.”

Lucille was the family prayer director, faithfully praying for requests from family and friends.

Sioux Funeral Home of Pine Ridge is in charge of arrangements.