



Obituary

Born: Saturday, March 11, 1922

Died: Thursday, November 10, 2016

Alphonse Franchot Halfmoon, 94, of Mission, Oregon, passed away November 10, 2016 at home, which he was born on, surrounded by loved ones.

Alphonse, or Al, was known by many as Frenchy. He was born March 11, 1922 to Alphonse Otis Halfmoon a Nez Perce tribal member and Mary Joshua a Cayuse descendent from the CTUIR. He had four sisters and eight brothers. The Halfmoon surname is a result of the family livestock brand of halfmoon that was used when his Nez Perce grandfather was baptized in the 1800's.

Alphonse married Florence M. Dishion on March 16, 1952. She preceded him in death in 2014. Together they raised their four sons and four daughters in the Pendleton and Mission area. Three of their sons; Mark, Matthew and William "Billy" Halfmoon preceded them in death.

Much of Frenchy's early years were spent with his Kautza Tawax and Gilbert Minthorn, and his aunt Amy Webb where he learned the seasonal rounds of that generation; subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering. It was in this time where Frenchy was given his Cayuse name, Lungeon (meaning stands apart or alone) by Gilbert Minthorn.

In Johnson Creek, Catherine Creek, McCoy Creek, Pearson Creek, Limber Jim, Vey Meadows, on the Minam and Lostine Rivers, to the falls of Celilo and from the ridges of Battle, Black, and Strawberry Mountains to Kamela and Kanine is where Frenchy acquired a treasured education of life in a simpler time with family and friends of a different age; a time of seasonal rounds which resonated deeply with Frenchy and gave him the foundation and framework for his dedication to the land, the importance of family and heritage, service to others, preservation of tribal ways, and stewardship of the last of his culture. In many ways the last of his kind,

Alphonse attended St. Andrews Indian Mission boarding school, St. Joseph's Academy, Chemawa Indian Boarding School, Haskell Indian Nations University, Blue Mountain Community College and Lower Columbia College.

He enlisted in the Army in 1940 and served until 1945, serving first in the Army's last actual cavalry unit out of Presidio, CA, then in the Army's Signal Corps in the Pacific Theater of Operations in WWII, receiving full disability upon his discharge.

He was elected to the Confederated Tribes Board of Trustees in 1968 and became Chairman in 1969. He served one term

Service Summary

Burial

Recitation of the Rosary

8:00 PM Sun Nov 13, 2016

St. Andrew's Church

48022 St. Andrew's Road
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Funeral Mass

7:30 AM Mon Nov 14, 2016

St. Andrew's Church

48022 St. Andrew's Road
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

on the Board of Trustees in order to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where he emphasized riparian protection as a method of protecting not only fish but also other animals that depended upon healthy watersheds.

Frenchy received training as a typesetter and worked for the East Oregonian, participated in agricultural research and harvest, was a heavy equipment operator, logger, construction and carpentry, livestock drover, and caretaker/bus driver at St. Andrew's Mission Indian School for sixteen years until its closure in 1972.

In 1973 he relocated to Cathlamet, WA where he lived on and worked for the Columbia Whitetail Deer National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) until his first retirement in 1988. After his retirement he went to work for a logging operation out of Trout Lake, OR until he and Florence returned to Pendleton, where he was elected to the governing body of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in 1992 until retiring finally in 1999. In 1996 he served a term as Chairman of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and was inducted into the CRITFC Hall of Fame in 2006.

Alphonse was generous with the knowledge he was given. He was a prolific writer, an inveterate reader and gladly shared his own history, experiences and knowledge with the CTUIR and other tribes and in sundry tribal forums. Family, family history and genealogy were paramount and prominent in Frenchy's life and family gatherings were a central part of his life, and one which he avidly participated in until health issues and the passing of his late wife, Florence, took a hard toll upon him.

The life he and Florence shared was one of endurance, strength, and faith, a hallmark of which was his devotion to the Catholic faith. In their life together, he and Florence raised eight children, as well as helping countless other children and families through their philanthropic endeavors, leaving a legacy of giving and compassion.

Alphonse is survived by his brothers Ron Halfmoon (Chet), Harold Halfmoon (Elsie). His brothers-in-law Lee Clure and Darrell Brown; his children Hilda Alexander (Randy), David Halfmoon (Ramona), Kateri Cochran, Gretchen Halfmoon-Sauvie (Rex), and Susan FastHorse (Virgil); his grandchildren Kyle Daley, Sunni Alexander, Fawn Eiford (David), Rebecca Rivera, William Halfmoon (Amy Mullen), James Halfmoon FastHorse (Tracy Wilken), Midnight Brockie, Georgia Wallahee (Leo) and Alaska Koski; his great-grandchildren Kiona Rivera, Violet, Helen, Claire and Mariane Eiford, LaRiah and Nicolas Alexander, Weptas and Demetri Brockie, Jr., Layla, Liberty and Margo Wallahee, and Audrey Florence Halfmoon. And many nieces, nephews and cousins that he was close to as well as many friends in

the community and throughout the Pacific Northwest.

This is a quote that our father, Alphonse wrote in November of 2002 in describing his life with our mother and what they wanted to leave behind: *"We've lived quite a life raising eight children and then some. Both of us have been given a longer duration of living and to hope for a longer life is up to how we live. And there is no guarantee of being centenarians. But would like our life to be an example for our children and our grandchildren on up to the generations to come."* Dad, we have never been more proud to be your children. We will miss you terribly and look forward to the day we will be reunited with you, mother and our brothers.

the online condolence book
at www.burnsmortuary.com. Arrangements were with Burns
Mortuary of Pendleton.