



Bill Schaaf

August 26, 1940

** Floral Web Store Is Not Available. To Order, Please Call (320) 532-4132 **

A Funeral Ceremony for Kiiwedin Binesii, Bill Schaaf age 82, will be held at 10 AM on Monday, August 7, 2023, at the District 1 Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation with Ombishkebines officiating. Visitation will begin at dusk on Sunday, August 6, 2023, at the District 1 Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. Interment will be in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Kiiwedin Binesii, Bill was raised in the woods on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, where his father, a member of the Minnesota Logging Hall of Fame, taught him the importance of independence. His mother was a Mille Lacs Band member and direct descendant of Chief Buffalo of the Lake Superior Red Cliff nation. She introduced him to family members who taught him to trap, hunt, fish, and rice in traditional ways. After high school, Bill went to Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. It was there he learned to play basketball in the intramural program. After Haskell, he participated in a relocation and job training program. Bill learned air conditioning and sheet metal trades and worked for GM for five years, he headed back to college at Berkeley, where he majored in political science and American Indian studies. Taking part in the occupation of Alcatraz Island. During this time, he was also pursuing his love of basketball by playing in tournaments around the bay area and beyond, northern California, Reno, and

up to Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Montana. Basketball, family, travel, and art-filled up his life. He was a man of purpose, vision, and passion. He cared about keeping our culture alive for future generations. He was a true activist. He taught about traditional tobacco use, he would sell and harvest wild rice often (the rice dealer), he would harvest walleye and traditional medicine, craft birch bark. He was a true entrepreneur and had too many businesses to count.

Bill is survived by his wife, Barbara Schaaf; children, Kateri Bohanan, Mikayla Schaaf, Wahelah Schaaf, Timothy Schaaf, William Schaaf Jr., Michelle Brown, Victoria Moon, and Laura Sherman; grandchildren, Kodah, Keenly, Kaelyn, Michael, Shaniah, Antonio, Tim, Sheena, Natasha, Marteen, Blaine, Delano, BillieDee, Shawnoah, Layla, Gena, Ethan, Verel, Elisha, Verissa; great-grandchildren, Ayaana, Dominic, Charlie, Graciana, Ahryanna, Deangelo, Athyna, Azellia, Serenity, Adriano; brother, Frank Schaaf; sisters, Suzanna Schaaf and Marilyn Whitney; special friends, Julian Reuter, Jake Reuter, April McGill, and Jessie Seim; and many loving relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Susan; father, Ambrose; sisters, Clara Kruse, Maryann Shedd, Dolly Granger, Nancy Arnoux, and Karen Applebee; brothers, Alexander and Ronald Schaaf; and great-nephews, Gage Kruse and Kayden Eagle.

Cemetery Details

Vineland Cemetery

Utopia Rd
Onamia, MN 56359

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 6. 8:00 PM (CT)

Baadwewidang Community Center
45300 Virgo Rd
Onamia, MN 56359

Funeral Ceremony

AUG 7. 10:00 AM (CT)

Baadwewidang Community Center
45300 Virgo Rd
Onamia, MN 56359

Tribute Wall

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“ Too many memories to share, however, two I would like to mention. He bought me a nice shirt, when I spent Christmas at his Puyallup residence. I liked the shirt si much, I wore it for my personalized Graduation picture! Also, whenever Uncle Bill takes you out to eat, it's always a nice place! He took me to this ritzy Mexican Ristorante, I remember it quite well, as we were watching the Orange Bowl on T.V. while waiting for our delicious entree!

Stephan - August 05, 2023 at 11:03 PM

ST

R.I.P. My uncle always, respectfully!

Stephan - August 05, 2023 at 11:07 PM

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My condolences to the family and friends.

Stephan - August 05, 2023 at 11:50 PM

ML

Bill definitely was a special person in so many ways. Always funny a ready to have good times. Always kind. He will be missed until the next meeting. Love to all his relations.

Michele Luzius - August 06, 2023 at 01:05 PM