



Harry Joseph Bessette

September 19, 1949 - January 16, 2024

Harry “Slim” Bessette was born in Nespelem, Washington at the Colville Indian Health Hospital in 1949 to Harry Bessette and Bertha Williams. He grew up in Oroville, Washington, and graduated from Oroville High School. He enlisted in the Army in 1969 and served in the 82nd Airborne in Germany. He was honorably discharged in 1971.

Slim met Theresa Buckner in 1976 and married in 1985. They have four boys: Travis, Robbi, Charlie, and Willi.

He started working at the bingo hall and worked hard for our sovereignty. He also worked at the Colville Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO).

His father was enrolled at the Head of the Okanogan Lake Indian Band, Vernon, British Columbia, Canada. His mother was an enrolled Colville Tribal member. His parents preceded him in death.

He will be missed by his brothers: Richard Benson, Ted Bessette. His sisters: Victoria Williams, twins Sheila and Cynthia Williams, Valerie Williams. He was preceded in death by brothers: Glen Bessette, and Raefield Benson. His parents: Harry Joseph Bessette, and Bertha Williams

Harry was a great father to his sons. He started his fatherhood in a positive

way and loved his sons dearly. His family meant the world to him. He was loved by many and will always be remembered for his sense of humor and cherished for his friendship. He was an Okanogan at heart. He was a beloved son, grandson, father, brother and friend.

Services were held at the Omak Long House with a family rosary January 19th and services the following day and a graveside memorial in Ellisforde WA.

Previous Events

Service

JAN **19** (PT)

Omak Long House
25 Mission Road
Omak, WA 98841