



## Henrietta Joan Cooper

May 31, 1939 - June 25, 2021

Henrietta Cooper passed away on Friday, June 25th due to complications in a heart procedure that would repair her heart circulation. She knew the risks about moving forward and she did it anyway because that's who she was, a fighter until the very end. Henrietta Cooper, who was also known as Quay-la-la Which-ta-lum was a longtime Tribal elder and leader of the Lummi Nation and a spiritual guide to countless others across the country.

She was born in 1939 to Henry and Charlotte (Green) Cooper and raised in Deming, Washington until moving to Forks, Washington where she attended Forks High School and according to all who knew her, she was incredibly popular. Popular enough to be named Carnival Queen of Forks to which her father was incredibly proud. For anyone who knew her as a young woman in Forks, she is remembered for having a smile on her face and bringing laughter to anyone who had the privilege to cross paths with her.

Henrietta gave birth to two beautiful daughters while living in Forks. Her daughter Joni Eller was born in 1956 and Jill Coughenour in 1960.

In 1977, Henrietta moved to Port Angeles, Washington with her two daughters to manage a fashion boutique and in the process, brought laughter, love, teachings and joy to the Peninsula community. It was in Port Angeles where Henrietta found a community and home that she loved so dear, she stayed

until her passing in 2021.

In 1989, Henrietta moved in with her daughter Jill to assist in the raising of her two grandchildren, Ty Coughenour and Tawny Bagby creating a multi-generational household that Ty and Tawny are forever grateful.

For her whole life, she was a lover and seeker of beauty, finding it just about everywhere she looked whether it was the way the sun hit one of her flowers in her garden, the laughter of her great grandchildren or the crashing waves at First Beach in La Push.

She was a medicine woman, a seer of spirits, a beacon of wisdom, a healer of the soul, a lesson in respect, a carrier of songs, a proud progressive, a bridge of support and a warrior until the very end.

She is survived by her daughters Joni Eller and Jill Coughenour, brother Leland Cooper, Grandchildren Garrison Eller, Chance and Jenny Eller, Noah Eller, Ty Coughenour and Tawny Bagby. 9 great-grandchildren and beloved Auntie to too many nieces and nephews to list.

She is now home with her brothers Harry "Spud" Cooper, Elsie "Dude" Point, Clifford Cooper, Cha-das-ska-dum Which-ta-lum, where they can finally be together again.

A prayer service will be held Wednesday, June 30 at 6:00pm. Funeral services will be Thursday, July 1 at 10:00am. Both services at the Wexliem Community Building. Burial will follow in Lummi Nation Cemetery.

# Tribute Wall

PQ

“ *Cloud Gathering Woman came to me recently as I was watering my garden in this heat and drought, bringing with her a whole Tribe of Cloud People, and as they settled overhead in the sunny skies, a gentle rain fell and quenched everything . I suddenly thought of beloved Henrietta Cooper with whom I visited years ago in Port Angeles and at La Push, and with whom I spent countless hours on the phone laughing, sharing, between her beautiful home in Port Angeles and mine, in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Beloved Henrietta, I did not know until now, Aug. 23, 2025, that you had made your transition to the Lands of Your Ancestors where you will Walk in Beauty forever and ever. When I look at the beautiful Clouds, I think of you. Come, Bring the Rains, Beloved Cloud Gathering Woman. Forever in My Heart, Paula Quinn*

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**Paula Quinn** - August 23, 2025 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ *Dear Jill and family... I met Henrietta in the mid-80's at the Coffeehouse Gallery in Port Angeles. She asked me to make her a special small clay sculpture, which I did. It always felt like a great honor to know her a bit and feel that great, beautiful smile beaming at me. The last time I saw that beautiful face was in Safeway about 15 years ago. her warm greeting and big hug (unbeknownst to her) , was what I needed right then to counteract a traumatic happening minutes before in another part of the store... it was an almost miraculous moment that I will never forget. Big love to you, Jill, and the whole family. She will be remembered as a force for good, and a one-of-a-kind example of loving kindness in everyday life... XXOO Margaret and Chuck Owens*

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**Margaret Owens** - July 20, 2021 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ *Henrietta was such a warm and loving woman. She always had caring and thoughtful advice when needed and such a great sense of humor. It was a pleasure to have know and worked with her. My sincere sympathy to her family.*

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**shawn price** - July 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM