



Mike Edward Rawley

April 17, 1947 - December 2, 2012

Mike Mickey Edward Rawley, 65, passed on Sunday, December 2 , 2012 in his home on Lummi Island, Washington. A service will be held on Saturday, December 8, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. at the Grange Hall on Lummi Island with military honors.

Mike is survived by his wife of 44 years Lora Rawley; son Christopher Rawley (wife Sandra), and daughter Tobi Melton (husband Tim); 12 grandchildren; 1 great granddaughter; also daughters Kelli, Lerin and Emi; his sister Linda Sayers; brother Mark Rawley; numerous nieces and nephews; and his pets Bella, Phoebe and Shasta.

He was the business manager at Diehl Ford for many years. His true passion was selling trawl gear, and he owned a fishing boat with his brother Mark Rawley and business partners Mark and Mike Stone.

Mike was relentless in his energy and compassion for others, often at the sake of himself, and with particular fondness for those in Indian Country and Native communities. To know Mike was to have at your side a person of unlimited positive energy, quick wit, and strong effort to make your life, and the lives of your community, better. All of Indian Country benefited from the largeness of his efforts and the compassion of his convictions. Up until his final moments, he was working on trying to expand economic opportunities to

those in Indian Country and kept his illness from notice or discussion by many, so that it would not detract from a focus on others and the greater good.

As a proud Alaska native, Mike was born and raised in and around Ketchikan Alaska, and served in the Marine Corps in 1974. After service in the military, Mike worked in the banking industry before a long association with the Lummi Nation, working in several economic development capacities. Mike then transitioned to private consulting and independent contractor positions with a Native-oriented economic development focus. During the last few years, Mike served as a corporate board member and then executive director for the Native Tribal Development Association (a consortium of tribes established as a nonprofit entity to facilitate and expand economic opportunities to all of Indian Country). Mike also continued to work in director and officer positions for his own Alaska Native Corporation – the 13th Regional Corporation – up until his passing. Unbeknownst to many, he also continued to volunteer his time for many years to provide organizational, grant-writing, strategic and other assistance to Native Hawaiians. No matter if the hours were long, the load was heavy, or the odds were daunting, Mike would jump into the problem with any friend or associate and spent his final breaths working to make Indian Country, and his greater community, a better place. For the thousands that he has touched, the ripple of his presence will be felt for many years to come.

Condolences and remembrances may be sent care of Lora Rawley (4372 Melcher Ave, Lummi Island, Wa. 98262). Donations may be sent in remembrance of Mike to Whatcom Hospice, 2901 Squalicum Pkwy, Bellingham, WA 98225 or to Island Chapel, PO Box 241, Lummi Island, WA 98262.

Farewell Tribute Information

A service will be held on Saturday, December 8, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. at the

Grange Hall, 2220 N. Nugent Road on Lummi Island with military honors.

Tribute Wall

RS

“ Dearest Lora and family, You are in our prayers at this time, and May our LORD and SAVIOR be with you and give you COMFORT! We remember the time that the two of us couples went to MaryMoore Park to enjoy the Hawaiian Concert in the park, and be together! And for being able to work along side with you Lora, at Louisa House, and to see Mike! He was so cordial and friendly! He will be missed...

Ron and Eileen Stehr - December 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Lora and family, So sorry to hear of Mikes passing. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.
Diana and Bill Parker

Diana Parker - December 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ My deepest and sincere condolences to the family of Mike. I have personally known Mike back when he was very actively involved with National Tribal Development Association and was an asset. I considered Mike a friend along with business associate. I will miss his smile and humor!

Laurie A. Sun Child - December 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Dear Tobi, Lora, and Rawley Family, I was so sad to hear of Mike’s passing. I had seen him within the last year and one of things I had asked was how Tobi was and he beamingly told me that if I went to Fred Meyers on Bakerview early Sun. mornings I would see you with your kids in p.’js. getting your groceries. I remember our graveyard shifts at the Casino and Mike said that I had to come to his house and make fry bread for him. May God hold you all in his arms during this difficult time and by remembering all the good times and funny things may it help ease your pain. Take care and my thoughts are with you.

Margaret Curry - December 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM