

ERIC W. "MR. BILL" PEARSON JR.

1931 - 2015

ERIC W. "MR. BILL" PEARSON JR. Bill, a member of the Yurok tribe, was born July 19, 1931 in Susanville, CA to Eric W. Pearson Sr and Mary Dowd. At the age of 3 he would, along with his parents, move to Weitchpec, CA. It is here that Bill would live and raise his family until his peaceful passing on December 10, 2015 in Eureka, CA with his family by his side. He attended school in Weitchpec and Hoopa High where he played basketball. Shortly after, through family, Bill would meet the love of his life Barbara Beck.

Bill and Barbara were married in 1951 and next March would have marked their 65th wedding anniversary. Together they raised 3 children: Eric "Winks" Pearson III, Karen "Chick" and Ranold "Ted" Pearson Sr. At a time when most people were retired they would also raise 3 of their great-grandchildren: Lee, Erica and Alex Ammon. Along with raising family they also ran Pearson's Grocery store. Bill lived a rich full life. At age 20 he became a Golden Glove boxer. He raced boats, stock cars and dragsters at Samoa; and he bought an airplane and became a self-taught pilot. He went on to sponsor boat racing and many local youth, high school and men's league sports. Bill was an avid hunter and fisherman and was known as the area's man to see for all local "hot spots" on the Klamath and Trinity rivers. Along with his sons he started Pearson and Sons guide service and created the "home of the tackle bustin' steelhead and salmon". He was also a long standing member of the Yurok Housing Board, Elks Club, Bigfoot Golf & Country Club, and Ducks Unlimited. To many in these parts Bill was a legend. He touched many lives, forged life- long friendships and was known as a man of his word. His best achievement was his dedication to his wife and family . He was a kind and big-hearted man who did not have the word "no" in his vocabulary; and he would not refuse a request to help someone in need. Bill was preceded in death by his parents Eric W. Pearson Sr. and Mary Dowd Pearson, son Eric "Winks" Pearson III, sisters Katherine Beck and Donna Rae Gillham, and aunt Thelma Dowd McLaughlin. He is survived by his wife Barbara Pearson, daughter Karen "Chick" Pearson, and son Ranold "Ted" Pearson Sr. (Maggie), daughter-in-law Joyce Pearson, and grandchildren: Tonya Pearson, Casey O'Neil and Delbert, Laura Pearson, Ranold Pearson Jr, and Heather Campbell (Bob); great-grandchildren: Sonia, Cory, Delbert, Devlin, Dewayne, Alex, Lee, Erica, Leroy, Bobby, Tristin, Lane and Scarlett; great- great-grandchildren: Jackson, Angel, Aeriana and Ida; and very special friends Vic Blanc and Mike Ferris; and the far too numerous extended family and friends to mention. Per his wishes there will be no services. A celebration of his life will follow at a later date.

Please sign the guestbook at www.times-standard.com.

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