



Charles Robert Thom Sr.

April 4, 1928 - October 8, 2013

Charles Robert Thom, Sr., (Red Hawk) passed to walk with his creator on October 8, 2013, at the age of 85. He was surrounded by his family at Madrone Hospice in Yreka, California.

Charlie was born on April 4, 1928 to Reece and Irene Thom in Fort Jones, CA. He was raised with traditional values and culture of the Karuk people. Charlie was instrumental in getting the Karuk Tribe recognized by the federal government.

He served in the Army from 1944-1946 during World War II.

Charlie was a logger most of his life until an injury ended his logging career. He taught Native Studies at Humboldt State University during the late 70's. Charlie was the founder of Earth Circle Association that was established to preserve the Karuk Dance ceremonies for future generations.

Red Hawk enjoyed gathering with people from all over the world to share his culture, traditions, and values. Charlie was a very spiritual person and a great teacher of the Karuk traditions and language. One of his greatest joys was hiking into the wilderness to Doctor Rock for meditation and renewal.

Charlie is survived by his children: Daylene, Evaleen, Michael, Ronald, Franklin, Bobby Thom Lake, Walter, Barbara, Randall, Patrick, Leslie, Beverly, Jimmy, Chaley, and many, many grandchildren and great grandchildren, who carry a lot of love in their hearts for their grandfather.

Charlie is pre-deceased by his children Charles Jr., Charlene, Daniel, and Sherry.

A traditional burial is planned for 3:30 p.m. on Friday, October 11, at the Fort Jones Cemetery in Fort Jones, California, in accordance with Charlie Thom's wishes. A memorial service will be held at Girdner Funeral Chapel on Tuesday, October 15, at 11:00 a.m. At 1:00 p.m., there will be a Gathering Pot Luck Dinner "Celebrating Charlie Thom Sr.'s Life" at the Karuk Housing Authority, 1836 Dove Lane, Yreka. Girdner Funeral Chapel is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.girdnerfuneralchapel.com.

Tribute Wall

CA

“Charlie Thom was an amazing spiritual person who touched my life deeply. I have been thinking of him a great deal for the past three years and felt he was going to leave us and my heart felt broken for we were losing a great soul- a true medicine man - I could not reach him and am now living far away - I miss my time with everyone who was apart of the sweat lodges and thank each of you - I am at a loss for words... I spent the 90's going to his sweat lodges + - the Marble Mountains, Mt. Shasta, Marin, also a wedding south of Palo Alto plus other events!!!. During the vision quest in the marble mountains I was not able to hike up the mountain due to an illness and while others were upset Charlie ignored the scene taking place and after he finished breakfast he took control and told everyone what to do (smile)- he told me I was going to up the mountain on his donkey. I rode up the mountain with him- a trip I will never forget- he was so kind and understood how ill I was and he shared some memories he spent growing up in the mountains- A time I honor.. He had me pick medicinal plants he later had us drink. He taught me how to pick the scared root which I LONG FOR!!! I always kept a piece around neck. Life became clear as if all the darkness became light... I did not want to return home... I loved life in the mountains.. tranquil peace-life made sense. forever will I honor Charlie Red Hawk. - I send my loving regards to his family and close friends- Love and Gratitude always, Carol From Marin

Carol - February 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ Charlie Thom was an amazing inspiration to me. His youthful nature and his smile always lightened my day when I needed it most. He blessed my life in ways I can't explain. Ever since I met him I have prayed for and honored Charlie Red Hawk Thom in every sweat lodge I have been in. So Much Love and Gratitude to a truly Radiant Spirit.

Cassidy - October 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Charlie touched so many of us in Humboldt County. It had been many years since I had sweat with him, but thought of him often. He seemed to know when I was having a bad time in life and would call me "out of the blue" and tell me I needed to sweat and invite me over to his place. He was always right. I hope there is a photo album set up somewhere that I can add my photos to- from the 80's and 90's. He was a fine man and I will never forget him. I recently camped over at Mt. Shasta and found out that where I decided to camp, was where he had recently been having his sweat lodge. No coincidence there! Anyway- I know he's in a great place, and he will always be in my heart.

Deborah Ketelsen - October 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ Charlie has been a part of our life for 27 years. He "baptized" both our daughters when they were young. A large red-tail hawk was in our yard and circling our house. Red Hawk's spirit is with us all! He will be greatly missed! Much love to the family!!!xoxo Tammy & John, Shannon & Nicole Robertson

Tammy Robertson - October 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Charlie brought so much to all of us, he will be missed, but his spirit will never be forgotten-Much love,

Tony Alex and family - October 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ Charlie I already miss you so much. I can't imagine your not being here with us. You touched our hearts and helped us strive. You are one of a kind Charlie Thom.

Sam Kephart - October 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Charlie Thom, thanks for sharing so much with so many people. You will be missed by so many, and I am glad to have met you.

sarah schaefer - October 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ May you have love and peace on your journey over the Milky Way... You will be missed by many!

Merilee Cross - October 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ I met Charlie just once and just a year ago, but his healing words changed my life. They helped me to physically heal and thrive without a 'life-long' medication I had recently chosen to discontinue after 15 years, and they made me a better healer and teacher myself. I thank and honor this remarkable man and his family for sharing him with me and so many others. Blessings!

Marge Hulburt - October 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Charlie taught my teacher, Tom Little Bear Nason. Bear taught me the ways. I would not be the man I am today, nor would I live the full and useful life I do, if it were not for them. Polomo
JohnEsselenHammond Ranch

JohN Brennan - October 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ Charlie, thank you for the most amazing weekend lodges, herbal teachings, gatherings of beautiful people and most of all you huge beaming smile and "hey" welcome when we entered the lodge. Your laughter, songs, medicine will all be greatly missed. I was blessed to have had your presence un my life :)

Sage Trucano - October 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ May Charlie's family be comforted that he rests in the loving arms of the creator and that his spirit is free to roam and dance now among the stars. May we all join in with happiness when our days are through.

Leslie Aguillard - October 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ We have lit a candle for You, Me and the Great Spirit... Charlie... Thank you for sharing your Love, your medicine. I cannot express what a difference meeting you has made in our lives. Our prayers are for a good journey for you and a healing for the hearts of your family and for all of us who love you. A "little brown man, built close to the earth"...who made us all smile. Worlds Wide Charlie...may peace be with you on your journey. Love and peace to your family and loved ones. We will miss your presence. Margie & Kevin Powers

Kevin - October 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *I can still hear your voice saying Every Living Thing. The only time in my life I ever passed out, I went to the sweat lodge in my unconscious state...You will always be in my heart and soul, mind and spirit, and you changed the path I walk forever. The smells of the herbs bring me right back with the spirits you called. Miss you. Diane Pinney aka Diane Coffee.*

October 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Thank you for opening my eyes Charlie!*

Noel Irish Guy Gantley - October 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM