



Ella Vina Smith

August 31, 1925 - May 10, 2015

Ella Vina (Pepper) Smith was the daughter of Chester Pepper Sr. and Daisy (Alpheus) Pepper. She was born on August 31, 1925 at Ti Bar on the Klamath River. She was raised and lived on the river from childhood to the age of 15; she then moved to Santa Rosa for 40 plus years and returned to Happy Camp and Yreka for her remaining years. Vina was an elder member of the Karuk Tribe. She was a respected, fluent speaker of the Karuk language.

Vina is survived by her four children, Zelda Brown of Washington, Mickey Manuel of Sebastopol, Byron Manuel of Medford, OR, and Robert Manuel of Yreka; one brother, Kenneth Pepper of Sparks, Nevada; 32 grandchildren, 47 great grandchildren and 15 great great grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Carlino Smith; her siblings Ruth Wingo, Robert, Chester, Mary and Benjamin Pepper; her children, Mary Mae Pepper, Alphonso and John Riate, Loretta Pinola, Vernon and Randy Manuel; and her parents.

Her school years were attended at Ti Bar and Sherman Indian School in Riverside, CA. She had worked many years in the cannery business and was a loving caregiver for the elderly. Her last occupation was as a Master Speaker for the Karuk language. She had taught many tribal members the

language. She was also very instrumental in working with the UC Berkeley Linguistic Department. She and other fluent speakers helped record and document many chapters of the Karuk language.

Vina was an active individual of the Christian walk. She loved studying her bible and singing her church hymns. Everyone knows that she was kind-hearted. She loved to travel and visit many of her relatives and friends. She always had a helping hand for the elders, even when she became elderly. She was a very strong, independent woman that many loved, adored and respected. She will be missed by many but her love and kindness will always be remembered.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 2:00 PM at the Fulton Pentecostal Church, 3380 Fulton Road, Fulton, CA. Burial will follow at the Santa Rosa Memorial Park on Shiloh Road in Windsor, CA. A reception will follow. There will be a memorial planned for later in Yreka.

Cemetery Details

Santa Rosa Memorial Park - Shiloh Annex

1750 Shiloh Road
Windsor, CA 95492

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAY **16**. 2:00 PM (PT)

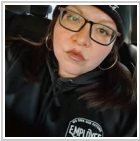
Fulton Pentecostal Church
3380 Fulton Road
Fulton, CA 95439

Tribute Wall



“ A PERFECT CHAPTER HAS BEEN
LAID TO REST NOW AND THEN
I TRY TO FIND A PLACE IN MY
MIND WHERE YOU CAN STAY
AWAKE FOREVER WITH LOVE
TO YOU
YOUR FIRST BORN GRANDDAUGHTER
KIMBERLY PEPPER HERRERA

Kimberly Herrera - May 15, 2015 at 07:35 PM



“ Thank you creator. I love my family. It is unbelievable how there is no sadness in my heart. I love my grandma Vina. I won't miss her, she is so much apart of me. I have good memories and they make me smile and I feel good so much it over comes the sadness of grief, of loss, of heartbreak. I can only honor love she has given me by giving what she has taught me.

Vanessa Pinola - May 14, 2015 at 11:51 PM

MC

“ I lit a periwinkle candle because it reminded me of her hair when I was little; always had a blue/purple tint. I loved to see her coming when I was little, she always made my gramma happy. Rest in Paradise Auntie Vina.



marvinette columbus - May 13, 2015 at 09:20 AM

MT

“ Sorry family of Vina, for your loss, she was such a Beautiful Elder, her heart and spirit has always been so Beautiful. I will miss her so much, i am so glad i got to see her last tribal reunion, and she got to meet my wonderful husband. The only good part she is finally with her love Carlos. You are in my thought & my prayers. Love always Michael & Myrtle Thompson..R.I.P beautiful Angel...

Myrtle Thompson - May 13, 2015 at 01:10 AM