

## ***Duane T. Bird Bear***

November 9, 1948-March 12, 2008 Mandaree. Duane T. Bird Bear, 59, formerly of Crown Point, NM, died of natural causes on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at the Lovelace Medical Center, Albuquerque, NM.

Duane was born November 9, 1948 to Theodore Ralph and Inez (Grinnell) Bird Bear in Dickinson, ND.

Duane attended the Mandaree School before transferring to the Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire and graduated 1964. He excelled in academics and cross-country events where he set many records. After graduating from high school he continued his education at the Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire and received his bachelor's degree in 1973 and earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Denver College of Law, Denver, Colorado in 1978.

Duane had accomplished many achievements during his lifetime and spent 26 years working for the federal government which included Agency Superintendent for five BIA agencies, they are Eastern Navajo, Crown Point, NM; Northern Cheyenne, Rocky Boy, Crow Agency, and Spokane Agency. He was the Division Chief for Tribal Services at the BIA headquarters in Washington, DC for five years. He also worked for the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 Denver, Colorado.

Duane strongly believed on the furtherance of Indian Self-Determination and the principal of Indian sovereignty and advocated on behalf of Indian and Alaska Native individuals.

Duane will be greatly missed by all those who knew him.

Survivors: Sons-Duane (Malin) Bird Bear, Jr., Sweden; Aaron (Marianne) Bird Bear, Wisconsin; Jason Bird Bear, Justin Bird Bear, Phoenix, Arizona; and Joshua Bird Bear-Cuny, Pine Ridge; Sisters-Theodora Bird Bear and Joletta Bird Bear, Mandaree, North Dakota. Duane was married to Thelma Stiffarm for 31 years. He was previously married to Roberta Carol Harvey of New Mexico. Other survivors include 7 grandchildren, numerous relatives and friends.

Wake services will begin at 5:00 pm on Sunday, March 16, 2008 in the Mandaree School Gym. Rosary services will be held during the wake services. Church services will also be held in the Mandaree School on March 17, 2008 starting at 10:00 am.

Father Stephen Kranz will be officiating. Fulkerson Funeral Home will be in charge of the arrangements.