



Mary Ann Fairbanks (58) passed away peacefully surrounded by her loved ones on the night of 5/16/2017. During her final days, Mary was able to spend precious time with and say goodbye to many of her loved ones, making her wishes known prior to entering into her final rest. Mary's passing is subtle reminder to everyone that life comes with no guarantees, and that each day should be filled with as much joy and laughter that can fit. These were two of the gifts that Mary gave to the world in abundance. She will be very fondly remembered for her devotion to her family, her zeal for all things fun in life and her quick witted humor. Mary enjoyed a long career in forest management and took pride in her work in the Wildland Fire Community. She visited many different states and has worked on some of the largest fire assignments in recent history. Many of us have seen her immense talent with beadwork; her style, design, and attention to detail was second to none and she loved creating the masterpieces. In addition to beadwork, Mary enjoyed spending her time camping at pow-wows, attending country concerts, and trying out her luck at the casino, all preferably in the company of friends and loved ones. Basically, if it sounded like fun, you could probably add it to the list of Mary's hobbies! Mary's love and devotion to her daughter and grandchildren was an attribute that was easily recognized and most certainly worth acknowledging when remembering Mary. So as Mary Ann Fairbanks "is going away dancing to Joe Diffie" (some of her final words), she is welcomed into the next life by her father (Eugene Whiteman, Sr), mother (Angeline Whiteman), two sisters (Edna and Margaret Whiteman), life partner (David M. DePoe), grandson Marcus Allen Crate, and twin grandchildren Xander Tyrin Kray Shabaiash and Xiamara Marcelyn Rain Shabaiash. In addition to many friends and family, Mary leaves behind her daughter Diana Fairbanks; eight grandchildren- Jocelyn, Mar, Gabriel, Angel, Connor, Inez, MJ, and Octavia; siblings- Marilyn Geshick, Jerome Whiteman, William (Julie) Whiteman, Roger "Sid" (Joni) Whiteman, Eugene "Jr" Whiteman, Debbie Whiteman, Linda Spires, Steven Whiteman; step-children- Joseph Fairbanks and Trish Staine; special nieces Sandra Hill and Sidra Starkovich and special nephew Lance Hill; along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who all feel the gravity of her loss. She requested that her special great nephew and niece Javan and Jaime Villebrun, as well as special friends Karen Savage and Joanie Kunze be her pallbearers. But we must be happy for Mary... and honor that she wanted us to celebrate her life and be happy that she is now enjoying her eternal reunion with many loved ones who passed before her. May you Rest in Peace forever Mary. God bless...

Services will be held at the Bois Forte Tribal Government Center in Nett Lake, Mn. Mary's overnight wake will begin at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 and memorial service held on Thursday, May 25 at 10 a.m.