



Burdell "Birdie" P. LaRoque,

80, Nett Lake, passed away on Friday, November 28, 2014, at the Cook Nursing Home. He was born on November 4, 1934 at White Earth, Minnesota. He grew up in the Rice Lake/Bagley area and graduated from Bagley High School, where he played basketball. He was married to Noreen Villebrun. Birdie, as he was known, honorably served his country in the U.S. Navy. He lived in Nett Lake most of his life. He worked for the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Committee in many capacities including the Bois Forte Sawmill and in maintenance for the Bois Forte Housing for many years. He enjoyed going to Tribal Pow-Wows, loved country music, traveling, and trying his luck at the casinos. He is preceded in death by his parents, Francis LaRoque and Genevieve Steinart; a son, David Paul LaRoque (1981), his step-father, Gerald Steinart Sr.; a brother, Gerald Steinart Jr.; a sister, Lorene Matfield; and his former wife, Noreen Villebrun. Birdie is survived by his special friend, Mary Porter of Nett Lake; 3 sons, Ronald LaRoque Sr. of Nett Lake, William LaRoque of Nett Lake and Michael (Jean) LaRoque of Waubun, MN; 3 daughters, Charlene Brown of Redby, MN, Florene LaRoque of Nett Lake and Lori (Peter) Drift of Nett Lake; 3 brothers, Dale (Lorraine) Steinart and James (Becky) Steinart, both of Grand Rapids, MN and William Steinart of Blaine, MN; 2 sisters, Joan (Wayne) Launius of Little Rock, AR and Yvonne "Bonnie" Brown of Northfield, MN; numerous special grandchildren, great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

SERVICES: Funeral services will be at 11:00 AM Friday at the Nett Lake Government Center, where the Wake will begin after 5:00 PM Thursday. Fr. Daniel Debano will be the officiant. The casket bearers will be the grandsons: Ron LaRoque Jr., Pete Drift Jr., Jimmy John Barto, Coty LaRoque, Mike Smith, Adrian Brown, Derrick LaRoque and Kenneth Villebrun. The honorary bearers will be all the other grandchildren. Military honors will be accorded by the combined honors guards of Bois Forte, Orr American Legion and the Cook Veterans of Foreign Wars. Interment will be in the Nett Lake Cemetery. Arrangements are with the Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.