



John Villerbun Thomas, 73, of Duluth, formerly of Nett Lake, passed away on Saturday, March 19th, 2011 at the Chris Jensen Nursing Home in Duluth. He was born on May 20th 1937, at Nett Lake, where he grew up. In his early years he worked in the woods. John loved fishing, and guided on Pelican Lake. His family fondly recall him taking them spearing in the creek. He worked for the Head Start Program at the Nett Lake, where he was a well liked bus driver and custodian. John was an avid softball player, and continued playing until he was nearly 60 years old. He moved to Duluth in 1987, where he as resided since. He was a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. He had a great wit and sense of humor and always lightened the mood of others. He is preceded in death by one brother, Leonard Thompson. John is survived by his children: John Edward Isham in California, Ben Francis of Virginia, Wendy Hildebrand of Orr, Shontel Isham of Mt. Iron and Mardell Burnside of Duluth; 1 brother, Harvey (Rachel) Thompson of Lake Vermilion-Cook ; 8 grandchildren; Hanna Hildebrand, James Hildebrand, "Little John"; along with numerous nieces and nephews and friends.

SERVICES: Tribal Rites will be at 10:00 AM Saturday March 26th at the Nett Lake Community Center, where visitation will begin after 4:00 PM Friday, the Spiritual Advisor will be Lee Staples. Interment will be in Nett Lake Cemetery. Honorary Pallbearers; Ron Geshick, Gene Goodsky, Hank Goodsky, Wilbert Strong, Gary Strong, Lester Drift, Sonny Drift, Frank Villebrun Sr., and Floyd Morrison. Arrangements are with the Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.