



SENATOR BERNICE WADITAKA

(TAS'INA WAS'TE WIYAN - GOOD BLANKET WOMAN)

AUGUST 19, 1941 - JUNE 15, 2020

Senator Bernice was the daughter of the late Paul Littlecrowe and the late Laura Ironside from Whitecap Dakota Nation. Bernice was adopted by the late John Waditaka and Maggie Waditaka on November 1, 1948.

Bernice attended school at the Mission school on Wahpeton Dakota Nation. Bernice attended St. Michael's Indian Student Residence until high school. Bernice graduated grade twelve from SION Academy, Saskatoon in 1962. She attended Saskatchewan School of Technology where she received her diploma as a registered Nurse in 1966.

Bernice worked as a Registered Nurse at St. Paul's hospital for eight years and at the Rosthern Union Hospital until she injured her back. Bernice then worked at St. Michael's Indian Student Residence as a child care worker for a few years. Bernice was an Associate Teacher at the Prince Albert Indian Student Residence for thirteen years.

In 1987, Bernice moved home to Wahpeton Dakota Nation, she first worked as a Kindergarten Instructor and then as A Dakota Language Instructor. Bernice was also the Elder in Residence for the school at this time. Bernice retired in 2006.

Bernice sat on many Boards and Committees. Bernice was a member of the NASC Child and Family Services, the Four Nation's Police Management Board, SALL Dakota Retention Committee, WDN School Committee and the PAGC Woman's Commission. Bernice received the "Life Time Achievement Award" for her work with this commission. Bernice became a Senator of the Prince Albert Grand Council in October 2011. This was her most cherished achievement which she held close to her heart. Bernice was involved with the Prince Albert Rotary Project, she was to unveil the Plaque on June 16, 2020. Unfortunately, Senator Bernice Waditaka did not make it to this unveiling, but she was there in spirit.

Senator Bernice was involved in many projects. Bernice was involved with the APTN Finding Our Talk series. She was the elder and translator in the WDN Dakota App, this was the Legacy she left for her grand children and great grandchildren of Wahpeton Dakota Nation

Senator Bernice Waditaka shared her Philosophy "I give to others what I learned from my elders, as I am still learning about my culture and Dakota values of what is wrong and what is important. As an elder I have to remind myself, as a role model I must show respect, honor and love to everyone"

Senator Bernice was an Elder, Senator, Teacher she was also a Mother, Aunt and Grand Mother great Grand Mother and a Friend.