



## Don Colesto Ahshapanek Sr

April 29, 1932 - March 17, 2015

Don Ahshapanek, 82, passed away after an extended illness at his home in Anadarko, OK on Tuesday, March 17th, 2015. He was born on April 29, 1932 in Milton, Delaware to Albert Leon and Mabel Marie (Clark) Johnson. He and Carol Paddlety were married on September 28, 1962 at Angie Smith Indian Methodist Church in Oklahoma City, OK. Don received his PhD in Biology and taught at Emporia State University, Emporia, KS and Haskell Indian Nation University, Lawrence, KS. He worked for the BIA for five years as a tribal liaison for seven tribes. After his retirement he worked as a consultant for the Cheyenne Arapahoe Tribal College. He was a member of the Nanticoke Delaware Tribe. Don was an avid stamp collector. He was a member of Grace Christian Fellowship Church in Anadarko, OK. He is survived by: His wife, Carol Ahshapanek, of the home in Anadarko, Oklahoma 3 sons and their spouses: Darren and Michelle Ahshapanek, Anadarko, Oklahoma Don and Loriann Ahshapanek, Jr., Hattiesburg, Mississippi Brian and Lonna Ahshapanek, Seattle, Washington 7 grandchildren: Rebekah Renwick, Daniel Ahshapanek, Andrew Ahshapanek, Sean Ahshapanek, Don Ahshapanek III, Tia Ahshapanek, Niya Ahshapanek 4 great-grandchildren 1 brother, Marvin Johnson, New Jersey 1 sister, Carmelita Alaniz, Albuquerque, New Mexico He was preceded in death by his parents. Graveside Services: 6:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 17th, 2015 Memory Lane Cemetery, Anadarko, OK The family will be hosting a pot luck dinner and Celebration Of Life Services at 7:00 P.M., Friday, March 20, 2015, at Grace Christian Fellowship Church,

Anadarko, OK Burial was under the direction of Smith Funeral Home,  
Anadarko, OK Messages of condolences may be sent to [www.smithfuneralser  
vices.com](http://www.smithfuneralservices.com)

# Tribute Wall

RP

“ Carol thinking of you and the family at this time of sorrow. You and your husband are very special to me for the kindness ya'll always have in your hearts. Let Lori and your son know my condolences

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**Ramona Pahcheka** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Dear Carol and Family,  
I am so saddened to hear of Don's passing. He was a special, kind and gentle man. I was always so honored and touched when I was in his presence. He could make anyone smile. I know he is with the Lord in heaven. You have my deepest heartfelt sympathy and prayers. We will all miss him. Love all of you.

*Renee Bruesch and Family*

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**Renee Bruesch** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ Dear Carol and family,  
I am sorry to hear of his passing. I will always remember how you and Don were there for me while in Lawrence. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

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**Lee Ann (Blalock) Martin** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

VH

“ You graced my life as a great teacher when I attended haskell many years ago. You offered many blessings for my future when you stood as our best man at my wedding. You honored us with a life of friendship. You will be remembered as a caring, humble man with great knowledge shared. Aho

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**virgie henry** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *The positive impact that Don had on my young life will never be forgotten or unused. Lessons learned from Don and my memories have always been cherished. RIP my true childhood friend.*

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**Sterling Smith** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ *Sorry to here about Don. He used to come next door to Uncle Tom's house in Millsboro, DE and is my cousin.*

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**Kenneth N Burtpn SR** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

WR

“ *Sorry to hear of Don's passing. I was in touch with him several years ago as I was researching my gg grandparents Benjamin Sammons and Sarah Miller of Delaware who came and settled in Canada in the 1850s.*

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**William J. Richardson** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ *Sincere Condolences to the family on your loss. As a former Haskell student, it was nice to know Dr. Ahshapanek.*

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**Greta Myers** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *Our prayers and thoughts are with you all. God bless from the Honawa family in Langley, Oklahoma.*

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**Milton Genice Honawa** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ *My thoughts and prayers to the family. Thinking of the times we had in Kansas. Your family was always so kind and loving, miss those Ahshapenek smiles. God Bless Carol and family, love your Lawrence family the Coffey's.*

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**Carrie Coffey** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *My deepest condolences to your family. I had several classes at Haskell JUCO with Dr. Ahshapenek. He will be missed by many, because he touched so many.*

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**Celyna Yellowfish Morales** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

FA

“ *My Dear Relatives:  
Thinking of each of you at this difficult time. I Praise God for the Comforter that will abide with each of you and provide peace in the challenging days ahead. Your precious memories and our love for you uttered in prayer each day by many will strengthen you. God Bless You Family.*

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**Franklin E. Akoneto** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *My condolences for your loss. Prayers for the family at this time of mourning.*

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**Justine Hill** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ Love, prayers and condolences to Carol, sons and their families, relatives and friends. He is well known for his kindness, humor, intellect, patience and capacity for love and understanding. What a great person! We will miss him.

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**Charlie and Jackie** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I wish you all peace in this difficult time. Dr. Ahshapenek was a teacher and a role model of the highest caliber to me. I graduated from Haskell 23 years ago and to this day I still think about him weekly. He was a kind and encouraging soul and it was my privilege to have crossed paths with him. May God assuage your grief and my you all take comfort that your husband, father and grandfather lived a life worth living.

*Michael Skenadore  
HIJC '87  
St. Norbert College '96  
Gonzaga University 2016*

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**Michael Skenadore** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EW

“ I was saddened to hear of Dr. Don Ahshapanek's death. I taught in the English Department at the same time Dr. Ahshapanek taught biology at Haskell Indian Nations University. I greatly admired his teaching ability and his wise counsel and advice. He was a great role model for native American students.

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**Earl Waters** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Don was a very intelligent, kind and caring man. I consider it an honor to have known him. Carol, I always thought that he and you had such a sweet relationship. I am praying for your leave and comfort.*

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**Sherry Shenold** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM