



Samuel Franklin White

April 5, 1930 - February 13, 2018

Samuel Franklin White Sr, is the name on the birth certificate, but to the people who knew and loved him, he was Sammy or "Tone-Kei"(which means coming out of the water) Tone-Kei passed on into another world February 13, 2018 to meet his wife Bunny White, two of his children Frank yellowman White, Debra emkoyetie Starr, brothers George, Lee, elmer and evelyn and grandson James lee. He is survived by his beloved kids: Derek, Kevin, Sammy grandchildren Kathryn, and simean, along with his brothers/great grandchildren, tone-kei, keenai daniel and maddlynn that he surrounded himself by. Tone-kei of anadarko ,Oklahoma was born on April 5 1930 in anadarko to Boyd h and emkoyetie (Coco) white. He attend and graduate from chilocco Indian School near ponca city. He then attend central state University in Edmond okla. He met Vinita a. Jackson and they married in 1950. He served our country proudly with the u.s. marine Corp during Korean conflict. Tone-kei was a member of the Kiowa tribe Tone-Kei was a storyteller because he wanted the beautiful Indian fables to continue to live forever. He made his life a journey of telling the stories to everyone who would listen. He did not have to go far to be asked, because everyone who met him wanted to hear every word he said. He had a charm and grace about him with immense magnitude. He made everyone feel special. Most people who ever met him have a personalized story of an interaction with him that left an indelible mark in their lives. He made people feel good. He also was profound with humor. He is renown for how silly, lighthearted and quick-witted he was. He just made

people smile. Tone-Kei wanted to lift people up everywhere he went, and he went far. Tone-Kei was an advocate for people his entire life. He has been the mouth piece for Indians through the platforms of activists groups, writing multiple columns, 3 radio, and he had his own television show. In 2011, Tone-Kei had his soul revealing biography written to tell the world that Indians are indigenous people, sovereign nations that "must be visible members." In it he also shared his folktales, and heart stories of a life well lived. The powwow world was Tone-Kei's world. He was the gatherer of nations. He was in the center of many circle of friends asking Indians to "never separate from each other and their cultures." He emceed powwows up into his last years leading the laughs, dances, and songs. To many who looked up to him as an inspirational Indian elder, a person who will always be celebrated as the voice for his people, they will miss his vibrancy for life, but his work will not be forgotten. It will be remembered through his children, and for all of us who call him grandpa "You, all of you are a very special part of a great universal plan, and you are a soul living on Mother Earth and in your body you are here to perform a certain task that only you can do. To illustrate more of what I am trying to say; if I took one cup of water from the ocean, all the water of the world would have to move over to fill a gap. You are important; the world would not be the same without you. There is no goodbye in Kiowa. Aho!" I have spoken! - Tone-Kei Prayer service will be at 7:00 P.M., Friday, February 16, 2018 at the Grace Christian Fellowship Church in Anadarko. Funeral service will be at 11:00 A.M., Saturday, February 17, 2018 at Grace Christian Fellowship Church. Rev. Ted Mercer and Rev. Alvin Deere will officiate. Burial will follow at the Ware's Cemetery, west of Anadarko. Services are under the direction of the Smith Funeral Home, Anadarko, Oklahoma. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.smithfuneralservices.com

Tribute Wall

CJ

“ I wasn't sure if my friend Tonkei was still around as I hadn't seen or heard from him for a few years, so I looked him up on Google and just found out that he passed. 💔😞
He was my friend and as I was a powwow singer and later MC I was at many events that he MCd.
I loved and respected my friend Sammy "Tonkei White and we became buddies.
My condolences to his family and other friends who knew him.
He was one of a kind and I miss, which is what made me look him up.
God bless you all.
Wakan Washté Omani
(Lakota for " The Sacred Journey of Goodness")
Chuck Benson Jr.
Mesa/Tucson, AZ
April 3, 2026

Chuck Benson Jr. - April 03 at 01:42 PM

HB

“ Holly Martin Baker lit a candle in memory of Samuel Franklin White



Holly Martin Baker - August 16, 2022 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ *Holly Martin Baker lit a candle in memory of Samuel Franklin White*



Holly Martin Baker - August 16, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *I am the grandson of his sister Evelyn White. Last time I saw Uncle Sammy was in 1983 when he stayed with us in Los Angeles as he was Master of Ceremonies for Southern California Powwows I remember he was a very kind man and funny as heck!*

Loren B. - January 17, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ *Denise Lawrence lit a candle in memory of Samuel Franklin White*



Denise Lawrence - May 12, 2020 at 12:00 AM

ZJ

“ *I will miss Sammy, when I was younger I attended school at Bacone and Northeastern, I would try to attend most tribal gatherings and Sammy treated me like his own son, He teased and joked and we would laugh and laugh, I will miss Sammy, my heart goes out to the family.*

Zig Jackson - August 30, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ I don't have a memory without Sammy! He was 11 When I was born. My Dad, Lee White was his oldest brother. I have loved him all of my life, he's always been special to me: His passing has left a deep hole in my heart! Our family Matriarch is gone...but never forgotten. Love you Uncle Sammy
See ya later 😊



Laverne (White) Warren - February 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM

QS

“ He was my Uncle. Sammy and Bunny were part of our family. My mother, Quanah Kay Topetchy Workman was like a sister to them. I have many fond memories of visiting their family in Oklahoma and their visits to California. We were treated like royalty when at a pow wow with Tone-kei. As he soars with the eagles, he will live in my heart forever.



Que Sala - February 19, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ I Remember Sammy from the days of working at The Native American Center in OKC, help him preparing Indian Hills Pow Wow, we work together in various volunteer help. He was a great kid in heart. I had my moments in talkin' and laughing with him. That was in the good old 80's days. My last moments was back in The Gathering of the Nations Pow Wow in New Mexico 4/2005. By my mind, heart & memories, he will always be remember. Tonekei! Lives forever. have a great journey.

Legus w. Harjo - February 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ *Our Say-gee made our (powwow) world better!*

LaNeal Pewewardy - February 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ *My mom was her happiest when she could spend time with Sammy (her high school bestie) and Bunny. Oh what good people! I cherish their memory. Saying prayers from Birmingham, AL, celebrating his life! Love and comfort to the family.*

Grace and Roger Slaughter - February 15, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *LORD BLESSED US WITH THIS AMAZING MAN
WE LOVE YOU GRANDFATHER WATCH OVER US PRAY FOR
US. YOUR ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS!!! AHOE AND
YAKOKEE*

John White - February 15, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *We loved Sammy and he was always a great
help to our Big Soldier family and the Iowa
Tribe.*

*Deepest condolences to the family and the
Kiowa Tribe. We all made a loss.
HohTinEeMi - Joyce BigSoldier Miller*



Joyce Miller - February 15, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *R.I.P. My Friend!!! I Appreciate the Talks we had and the Wisdom that you Shared With Me!!! We will be together again, just as you said!!! My Thoughts and Prayers are With Your Family!!!*



Bill Reedy - February 15, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *I wasn't listed in OBIT PLEASE ad me I'm oldest GRANDSON Thank you*

John White - February 15, 2018 at 12:00 AM

FA

“ *On behalf of the Rudy Akoneto family, we extend our heartfelt condolences to our Dad's life-long friend. It was always an honor for Sammy to visit our campsite at Walters and share fellowship, laughter, and reminisces of Washita school days and life around Redstone and Buzzard Creek. He had such a wealth of knowledge and his legendary sense of humor. God Bless you all in the trying days ahead. We will be praying for all.*



Franklin E. Akoneto - February 13, 2018 at 12:00 AM