



## Vernon Belindo

November 3, 1935 - October 7, 2012

Vernon Howard Belindo Vernon Howard ?John? Belindo, 76, a loving husband, father, and grandpa, passed away peacefully late Sunday evening of complications from West Nile Virus. He went home to be with the Lord on October 7, 2012. FUNERAL: Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012 at 11 a.m., Rainy Mountain Baptist Church, Rainy Mountain, OK; Wednesday, Oct. 10; Viewing from 4-6 p.m.; Memorial Service at 7 p.m. at Smith Funeral Home, Anadarko, OK. MEMORIALS: Flowers may be sent to Smith Funeral Home, 301 W. Oklahoma St., Anadarko, OK 73005. Vernon ?John? was born November 3, 1935 in Phoenix, Arizona to Damon and Ruby Goomda. A full blooded American Indian (Kiowa-Navajo), he served the American Indian community for over 30 years as an activist and political leader. He graduated from Central Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1966. Early in his career he served as the Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians in Washington, D.C. where he was instrumental in passing legislation concerning the rights of Native Americans. John?s continued professional endeavors over the next 25 years was devoted to serving the American Indian people, from numerous advisory positions with various Native American organizations, to the Executive Director of the Native American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Denver Indian Health and Family Services, to the Network Manager of American Indian Radio on Satellite (AIROS) to name but a few. John also produced and hosted several television programs with the purpose and intent

of using media as a means to educate and promote awareness of American Indian issues and history. Two of the programs produced and hosted by him were "The First Americans" in Albuquerque, NM, on KOAT-TV (ABC) and "Good Medicine", WQED (PBS) in Pittsburgh, PA. After retirement, he became increasingly involved in acting in professional films and theatre, narrating video, musicals and theatrical productions. Among his work he was most proud, the Narrator for "Circle of Faith - The Words of Chief Seattle" with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, cast member of the theatre production "Black Elk Speaks" in both Denver and Los Angeles, and a cast member in the Swedish film "Nature's Warrior". John was a member of the Kiowa tribe of Oklahoma, of the Black Leggings Warrior Society, the Kiowa Gourd Clan, and a Marine Corp. Reservist from 55'-59'. He was a man of integrity, determination, enthusiasm, energy, and confidence. He cared deeply for his family and friends and will be dearly missed. , SURVIVORS: Wife, Sharon Belindo of Arlington, TX; sister, Phyllis Belindo of Taos, NM; and from Arlington and Fort Worth; son, Anthony Belindo and his wife Ann; Daughters, Julie, Kelly and Angela Belindo; son in law, Clifford Willems, and grandchildren: Amber (of Brisbane, Australia), Briana, John, Mackenzie and Scott, and numerous nieces and nephews.

# Tribute Wall

BM

“ We are so very sorry to learn of John's death. We send our best wishes and prayers to John's family.

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**Bruce & Mary Molnia** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Sorry for your loss. The Belindo family is in our prayers

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**Bryan Watson** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ Safe travels Johnny B. Nothing pleased me more then to hear your laughter at my poor jokes. Leave a trail so I can find you when my time comes. I have a few more you might like.

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**Miguel Najera** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

WT

“ Our Thoughts and prayers to Sharon and all the children and grand children. John & Sharon held a special place in our hearts and we have so many wonderful memories of them in all the years we have known them. John will be greatly missed. We know that we will meet again when the Lord call us home to Heaven. May the Lord continue to comfort your hearts in the days ahead. We love you.

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**Wendell & Frances Tsoodle** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ My sincerest condolences. John was an amazing man. It was a blessing to know him. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

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**DeLanna Studi** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ Julie, My thoughts and prayes are with you and your family. Your father was certainly a very interesting man. I would have enjoyed knowing him. I'm sure he had many stories to tell of his interesting life. Please know that all of us in CSS are thinking and praying for you. We love you.  
Gods Blessings, Kay

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**Kay Kaufmann** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Julie speaks often of her father in our bible study class and it's obvious how important family is to her. May you find strength in Him to make it through this difficult time. Peace and prayers! God bless you

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**Diane Derrickson** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ I was saddened to hear of your dear father's death, but rejoice in knowing he is with the Lord. I am praying for your family.

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**Sylvia Cabello** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ I am so sorry for your loss. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Carolyn Price** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Dear Belindo Family - I hope that you are comforted by the fact that your beloved relative was admired and respected by so many Native and non-Native people. Those of us who also served in some of the leadership posts that he filled know well how difficult those positions can be to do well - and he did them as well as anyone - and how very hard they are on the family, and I commend you for your sacrifices for the good of Native Peoples everywhere and for your grace in bidding farewell for all of us. Aho! Suzan

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**Suzan Shown Harjo** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ 1953 classmate ,mt view

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**eldio roddy** - August 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM