

PRESS RELEASE

Karuk Tribe

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INDIAN COUNTRY LOSES RESPECTED ELDER

Karuk Council Member Charron “Sonny” Davis Leaves Behind Long Legacy of Leadership and Commitment

HAPPY CAMP, CA – The Karuk Tribe mourns the loss of Charron “Sonny” Davis, a long-time council member and community leader.

Sonny served over a decade in Tribal leadership and was dedicated to the preservation and continuation of Karuk culture. During his many years of service on the Tribal Council, his vision of language restoration and dedication to economic development uplifted the Karuk community. Sonny served on the Karuk Community Development Corporation Board, Indian Child Welfare Committee and the Karuk Resources Advisory Board for many years and his contributions will be sorely missed. He was highly respected amongst the Tribal Community and was often asked to say the opening prayer at large meetings and gatherings both here at home and outside of the territory.

“I have looked up to Sonny since I was a child. He was a respected member of the Karuk community and we will miss him deeply. While we will never be able to replace a tribal leader like Sonny, our children will carry on his cultural knowledge and vision.” said Russell “Buster” Attebery, Chairman of the Karuk Tribe.

Sonny was a fluent speaker and teacher of the Karuk language and comes from a long line of ceremonial leaders and celebrated basket weavers. Sonny was called upon to bless many of our Tribal buildings and those blessings will remain for future generations of Karuk families who will enjoy the many opportunities those buildings offer.

“It is because of Sonny’s guidance that I am a Council Member today. He was a committed leader, a pillar of our community, and his dedication to Karuk language ensured its preservation for our future generations. Sonny made it possible for many of us to celebrate Karuk, and we will all carry on his legacy.” continued Michael Thom, Council Member.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday at 11am at his family village of Ti Bar.

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