



## Obituary

**Born:** Monday, April 9, 1934

**Died:** Friday, May 20, 2016

Etta L. Conner, 82, of Tutuilla Flats, passed away on May 20, 2016, in Portland, Or. Etta was born in Pendleton to Elsie (nee Spokane) and Gilbert Edward Conner on April 9, 1934. Her parents named her Wyassus (Dance) after her maternal grandmother from Wayam. Etta graduated from Pendleton High School and Portland State University with her B. A. in Administration of Justice.

Becoming an adult during the federal Indian Relocation Act era, Etta lived in Colorado Springs, Albuquerque, and Los Angeles. A long-time resident of Portland, she worked at the PSU School of Social Work and sold Avon while being an industrious homemaker. While there, she was secretary-treasurer of the Portland Indian Rodeo Association and a skier in slalom and downhill with club Ski-ente'.

Besides being an avid aqua-aerobics regular at the Pendleton RAC, she was also an oil painter and amateur cinematographer.

Devoted to camping at the annual Wallowa Tamkaliks Celebration and the Pendleton Round-Up tipi encampment, she also was a long-time volunteer in the Happy Canyon Pageant. With her brother Taz and sisters, she helped revitalize the Indian participation in Chief Joseph Days and supported the launch of Tamkaliks in Wallowa.

She is preceded in death by son Gilbert John Lewis, her parents, two sisters, and four brothers.

She is survived by her elder sister Leah Conner, Pendleton, and nine children: Jennifer Mesteth (Mark), Irrigon; Deborah Carter, San Diego; Marcia Sorini (Greg), San Diego; Lonna Lewis and Clay Christiansen, Pendleton; Leanna Lewis (Keith Burke), Pendleton; Cami El Shoura (Eslam), Pendleton; Edward Joseph Lewis (Kathy), Spokane; Kipp Lewis (Leanne), Las Vegas. She has 20 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

The funeral service will be at Tutuilla Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 22nd. Interment service at Olney Cemetery at 10 a.m. Monday, May 23rd. Dinner will follow at approximately noon at the Mission Longhouse.

## Service Summary

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### Funeral Service

2:00 PM Sun May 22, 2016

### Tutuilla Presbyterian Church

Tutuilla Church Road  
Pendleton, OR 97801

