



# Mr. Luther Medicinebird WhiteEagle Blackbear

AUG 4, 1945 - AUG 14, 2018



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## **Mr. Luther Medicinebird WhiteEagle Blackbear**

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**L**uther Medicinebird WhiteEagle Blackbear, age 73, of Madison, Tennessee passed away on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 in Nashville, Tennessee. Luther was born on August 4, 1945 in Kingfisher, Oklahoma to the late James WhiteEagle Blackbear and Daisy Turtle.

He was an Arrow Priest, Arrow Man Headsman for Bow String. He was a member of A.I.M. (American Indian Movement), and actively pursued civil rights for American Indians. He was also a spiritual advisor. Luther served his country during the Vietnam War in the United States Army.

He is survived by two sons, Stephan (Lety Gomez) WhiteEagle and Lawrence (Dana Brown) LeBlanc; daughters, Stephanie (James) WhiteEagle-Bagwell, Sherry (Nick Behan) Blackbear and Tiffany (Steve) Jolly; brothers Floyd Blackbear WhiteEagle, James Blackbear WhiteEagle and Burton Blackbear WhiteEagle; a sister Mary Lou Blackbear WhiteEagle; grandchildren Caseano WhiteEagle, Mollie Bagwell, Mattie Bagwell, Luther Bagwell, Canada WhiteEagle, GoodSoldier Blackbear-Behan, Harmony Blackbear-Behan and Julia Jolly; and numerous additional family and friends.

Visitation will be held Sunday, August 19th from 12 PM to 2 PM at Spring Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2 PM. Burial will follow in the Kingfisher Veterans Cemetery in Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

Spring Hill Funeral Home & Cemetery-Nashville has been entrusted with Mr. WhiteEagle's care.



## Events

### Mr. Luther Medicinebird WhiteEagle Blackbear

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#### Visitation

 **Sunday**, August 19, 2018

 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM CT

 **Spring Hill Funeral Home**  
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216



#### Funeral Ceremony

 **Sunday**, August 19, 2018

 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM CT

 **Spring Hill Funeral Home**  
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216





## Tribute Wall

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SA

**Stanley Abshire** posted:

My name is Stan Abshire. I was in Vietnam in 1966, and then stationed at Fort Belvoir, Va. Luther Blackbear White Eagle was stationed with me and we became very close friends. I was still 18 years old and had already spent a year in Vietnam and I think he believed someone needed to take care of me. I was kind of a loose cannon at that time so he literally adopted me as a little brother. He had such an impact on my life for that short period of time that many times throughout my life I often would think of him and what he would say to me. I'm 73 now and in poor health but I still have many memories and much respect for him and his influence on my life. My heart is sad for the loss of this man not only to his family and friends but the Indian nation at large. I have often wondered what happened to him and where he was. I tried many times to locate him without success. If you need to contact me for any reason you can email me at [cabshire3015@hotmail.com](mailto:cabshire3015@hotmail.com). My prayers are with you.

February 26 at 8:27 AM

MM

**Malia Miller** posted:

My name is Malia Miller. Lou was my adopted grandfather, who welcomed me into his people's traditions, giving me my name Blue Star when I was 6. I just found out about his passing and am deeply saddened. The impact this man had on my life and childhood was profound and has stayed with me almost two decades later. May he and his family rest in peace and know that his legacy lives so tenderly in my and I'm sure many other hearts.

September 13 at 5:53 PM

VM

**Vicky McNabb** lit a candle in honor of Luther.



February 10 at 3:57 PM

ID

**Iva Drungell** lit a candle in honor of Luther.

Forever in our hearts, we love you Lou.



November 3 at 5:47 PM



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**Tracy Francis** lit a candle in honor of Luther.

We will always remember how Lou honored the ancestors when he stopped them from ripping through the gravesites in Nashville. Amen Lou! And he was there when we had the first Nashville Walk For Water to say prayers for the water and land Together-as he always remembered-- Mitakuye oyasin



September 10 at 6:16 AM



**Kate Stapler Waddell** lit a candle in honor of Luther.

August 22 at 12:54 AM



**MC Mercedes Corraliza** April 7 at 8:28 AM

My friend, my list friend. I looked for you many times and now you're gone. I'll never forget you!!



**Arturo Lozano** posted:

my name is arturo loano and i was also in Germany and met Blackbear had good times and always would go out together Warren,Torrez,myself and others.Will always keep him in my prayers .Good Man God bless all his family

August 19 at 5:11 PM



**Becky Briggs** posted:

I have called Lou a brother for well over 20 years! We have laugh, cry, talked and definitely joked so much. I will miss him so much!! Fly High until we meet again.

August 19 at 3:29 AM



**Joe Torrez** posted:

My name is joe torrez,I was stationed in germany at the same time luther was there,we had good times together.he was a great guy.I will never forget him.god bless his entire family

August 18 at 3:48 AM



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EC

**Eva Chambers** posted:

I will never forget the first time that I met Lou WhiteEagle. It was over 20 years ago. I was like a moth drawn to a flame. Lou had that special kind of magnetism. I will be forever grateful for the privilege of knowing Lou. I will cherish every moment we spent together and every memory. He was so loved and respected so highly by so many. My most heartfelt sympathy for his children, grandchildren, all of his family and friends and all who loved this beautiful man.

August 17 at 1:43 PM

PC

**Phyllis Clayton** posted:

Condolences to the family. I will miss his phone calls. We had planned to write some history papers and I was his typist (computer) assistant. I'm so sorry we couldn't complete this assignment. I'll list my phone number here in case I can be of assistance. You will all be blessed with wonderful memories to a great activist for his people. Very best, Dr. Phyllis Clayton Hermitage, TN 615.618.5502

August 17 at 1:16 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Lily and Rose Tribute Spray to the WhiteEagle Blackbear family.



August 17 at 11:42 AM

CK

**Callie Khine** posted:

He is a good man and very caring and humble and I am so glad to have spent time at his house talking with him and visiting with his family and all the ceremonies I got to be part of. Will Kai and I will miss him very much. He is one of a kind.

August 17 at 10:47 AM

CQ

**Cherie Quadili** lit a candle in honor of Luther.



August 17 at 5:05 AM



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RS

**Randall Shubert** posted:

Memories of Lou,... I have plenty. We met in the 90's. Both of us were active in The Native American community. Both of us wanted to help with the issues in the best way we could. I discovered early on that he had a vision. He knew what he was doing and we both agreed on virtually everything. But, the best things I discovered about him over time had very little to do with community issues. We were both single Dads. And as I watched him raising his own children I learned so many things from him. Compassion, thoughtfulness, kindness, patience, and a wisdom about fatherhood that is rarely seen anymore. He raised his kids in a traditional way, helping them cope with a modern society which doesn't understand who or what we are. And today I see his kids all grown up as wonderful people. I'm happy that I've been able to witness their growth, along with my own children, and see that they have turned out just wonderful. They are fine examples of Lou's parenting and wonderful personality. These same qualities meshed with his every day life and dealings with other people. His personality, his patience, and his thoughtfulness taught me to be a better person. Without even trying, he made me "want" to be a better person. And so I am today, even though I will probably never achieve his level of humanity. Lou has always been like a magnet for other people. Everybody wanted some time with him. Including me. It seemed like there was never enough time for us to simply sit and talk. And that time is now lost for me. But the time we did have was always full of laughter. He had the best sense of humor I've ever known. Along with his kindness and quiet demeanor, there was nothing to dislike about this man. We will not see another like him. They are extremely rare these days. But, his family, my family and many others have been blessed by this follower of our Creator. He has been a tremendous blessing to us all. And I personally will miss our wonderful and beautiful friendship,.... for the rest of my days. "Wado, oiginalii.Gvgeyui nihi" Sunalei Gigage Galunadi.

August 16 at 8:14 AM

CS

**Carol A Skipwith** lit a candle in honor of Luther.



August 16 at 10:41 AM



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DH

**Deborah Hamm** posted:

To the family of Lou WhiteEagle, my heart is heavy with grief for the loss of this great man. I've know Lou for so long I can't remember. He was always the most interesting man to be around, sharing stories of the reservation, his childhood, his children, & his teachings. I've been in a many sweat lodges with him & truly appreciated his wisdom & prayers. I know each of you will miss him for the rest of your lives, but always remember, he spoke well of you & loved his family deeply. He will be deeply missed in the Native American community & as well in the hearts of all he touched. My prayers & thoughts go out to each of you at this difficult time. I will always cherish the times spent with Lou & his big ole bear hug & laughter when I called him my husband, which we always kidded my Paul about. Love & hugs to all of you. 🥹❤️

August 16 at 9:56 AM

SM

**Sonya Anderson Mertz** posted:

I have so many great wonderful memories but one special one sticks out in my mind is at MTSU powwow when you would have gourd dances. My fittest time ever dancing gourd and it was with you in the circle. I send my love and comfort and prayers to the family. I pray you rest in peace dear good friend. Fly high Lou.

August 16 at 8:14 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Luther by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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