



## **Heidi VanCleave Gudgell**

### Heidi VanCleave Gudgell

Born Karen Heidi VanCleave on Jan. 14, 1948, in Oakland, Calif., to Merle and Marie VanCleave, and died of cancer on Sept. 21, 2014, in Port Angeles, Wash., Heidi graduated with honors from Placerville High School in 1966. She moved to Idaho in 1979. She graduated from the University of Idaho with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology in 1986, and her juris doctorate in 1989. She married the love of her life, Gery Gudgell, in 1993. She worked as a clerk for Judge Bengtson in Moscow. In Boise, she worked for Court of Appeals Judge Silac and Evans Kane law firm before moving to Lewiston in 1998 to work as a tribal attorney for the Nez Perce Tribe. There she worked on tribal water rights claims related to the Snake River adjudication, and other tribal issues until her retirement in 2011. In retirement, she and Gery moved to Port Angeles, Wash., where they enjoyed the beautiful countryside and the

cooler temperatures.

Heidi's life journey was punctuated with concern for others. In both her professional and personal lives she was a defender of, and advocate for, those whose voices needed to be heard. Her criteria for success was to measure her contribution to causes greater than herself, and to those she knew. She was ever a loving friend, sister and a devoted wife. As her granddaughter, Kena, so eloquently said, "Her legacy lives on in each and every breath of the ocean wind, in each petal's bloom, in each Indian drum beat."

She was preceded in death by her parents, and is survived by husband, Gery Gudgell of Port Angeles, Wash.; her sister and brother-in-law, Gretchen and David Grayson of Glendale, Calif.; three nieces, Stephanie, Suzanne and Elisabeth; and stepson and daughter Shane and Rachelle Anderson and their four children, Kena, Coulson, Ella and Marcus of Virginia.

No service will be held. Memorials may be sent to Education Program, c/o Nez Perce Tribe Finance Office, P.O. Box 365, Lapwai, ID 83540.