



Chief Billy Redwing Tayac

February 14, 1936 - September 6, 2021

William Augustus Tayac, 85, also known as Chief Billy Redwing Tayac of Port Tobacco, Maryland, passed away at his home on Monday, September 6, 2021.

Born on February 14, 1936 in Washington, DC, he was the son of the late Phillip Tayac and Mary Lee. A proud Native American, Chief Tayac served as a political analyst for many years. He dedicated his life toward the preservation of the life and social change of the American Indian. Chief Tayac belonged to the American Indian Movement (AIM).

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Shirley Ann Tayac; four brothers; three sisters.

Chief Tayac is survived by his son Mark Tayac and his wife Evelyn; daughter Lenora Dodge and her husband Richard; grandchildren Phillip, Naiche, Ashleigh, and Kimberly; seven great grandchildren.

A visitation will be held on Monday, September 13, 2021 from 2PM until time of service at 4PM at Tayac Territory, 8105 Zachary Road, Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677. Interment will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association, P. O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011 or to American Heart Association, 4217

Park Place Court, American Heart Association Building, Glen Allen, VA 23060.

Condolences may be made on Chief Tayac's Tribute Wall.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 13. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Tayac Territory (family farm)
8105 Zachary Road
Port Tobacco, MD 20677

Service

SEP 13. 4:00 PM (ET)

Tayac Territory (family farm)
8105 Zachary Road
Port Tobacco, MD 20677

Tribute Wall



“ *Chief Billy Redwing Tayac*

October 08, 2023 at 10:45 PM



“ *Chief Billy Redwing Tayac*

October 04, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *Chief Billy Tayac and his presence helped me to be strong. I Regret not speaking to him when I saw him in Minneapolis a few years ago. I hope His journey back to the spirit was gentle*

Katherine Sinclair - December 06, 2022 at 01:55 AM



“ *Me and my father were there for Chief Billy's father's funeral. I'm greatly saddened by the news of his passing.. I know he is with his father and the great spirit... My father did a lot of work with Billy's father and his people...*

PAUL CARR JR...

Paul Carr jr - October 24, 2022 at 11:33 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to the Tayac family.*

William Savoy - October 07, 2021 at 02:50 PM

MS

“ My tie to your family is about place and appreciation of Piscataway culture. I have been by Chief Tukey Tayac's grave many times, respectfully acknowledging the beautiful place where he rests and enjoyed many Piscataway performances. My heart goes out to the Tayac family. I will celebrate the life of Mr. Tayac and mourn with you during this difficult time.

Maria S. - September 30, 2021 at 05:30 AM

KM

“ To Mark and Naiche Tayac and all of Chief Tayac's relatives and friends: I am so sorry to hear of your tremendous loss. In deepest sympathy,
Karen Marshall

Karen Marshall - September 18, 2021 at 07:15 PM

MD

“ Chief Billy Tayac was a great leader who worked tirelessly advocating for tribal sovereignty and Indigenous Rights. He recognized and encouraged leadership in others and opened many doors of friendship and opportunity across Indian Country. I will remember him as a fearless advocate and a strong voice not only for the Piscataway people, but throughout Indian Country. Rest In Peace.

Maria Dadgar - September 18, 2021 at 12:27 PM

ST

“ I didn't know Chief Billy Redwing Tayac but I met him one day in Piscataway National Park in Accokeek. I walk there several times a week and often stop at the grave site of his father Chief Turkey Tayac. Visiting the park and seeing his grave inspired me to read about the history of the Piscataway people. So one day as I was walking by, Chief Billy Redwing was sitting near his father's grave. I always stop at Chief Turkey's grave. Chief Billy Redwing said hello. Before I knew it we had been talking for almost an hour. He shared with me many stories of the Piscataway people and of his father. He shared with me the story of how his father came to be buried there. I thought it was sad that the family had to go through so much to have their Chief buried on the land that was stolen from them many years ago. It was a privilege to meet and talk with him. He was obviously proud of his people's history and of his father. In our conversation he said, "To my people, this land is like our Mecca." Rest in Peace Chief Billy Redwing Tayac. Thank you for sharing your story with me.



Sewell Truitte - September 13, 2021 at 04:16 PM

JT

“ Last spoke to Bill 3/7/19 when he had called my brother Ron Cecil. Bill sounded terrific, like a young man. So sorry to learn just today of his passing. We lived next door to him, his Mother, and his wife Shirley about the time their 1st child was born, a little boy, that they often drove around and around in that little VW bug of theirs to get him to fall asleep. Bill & Shirley took me in for weeks when I was having trouble at home. They were very kind to me. Good people like that will always be missed. With my deepest and sincerest condolences to his children, family, and all who loved him, he will be missed.

judy tranmer - September 13, 2021 at 02:59 PM

DL

I am Danette Harley Letcher, Wanted to say how kind Billy and Shirley were to our family. They always welcomed us with kindness which will not be forgotten.

Danette Harley Letcher - September 13, 2021 at 06:38 PM

VE

Mark and Nora, Was saddened to hear of your dad's passing. I remember your parents when I was young and always enjoyed when they visited us. I am happy though, to know your dad is with his beloved Shirley. Much love to all the family, Vicki Edwards, your cousin

Vicki Edwards - September 25, 2021 at 08:18 PM

DH

Mark and Nora. Donald and I send our sincerest condolences on the passing of your father.

*Donald and Linda Howard
(former neighbors... Winslow Rd)*

Donald Howard - December 06, 2021 at 05:55 PM

AH

Billy and I became "fast friends" in business, in Washington, D.C. He allowed me to attend several of the Pow Wow's for those who wanted to know about his extended family and the Piscataway nation.

His story about the promise by the United States to permit Chief Turkey to be buried on the land that he gave to the United States was not honored. Frankly I was not surprised at this USA to dishonor a long-standing promise.

To the Tayac extended family, though it has been several years since my dearest friend, Billy Redwing, has passed on, it is to his extended family that I send my most heartfelt condolences with your terrible loss.

Billy, you have taken with you a portion of my heart.

*Love to you, always,
Alan Herson
410-294-0212*

Alan Herson - February 25 at 05:27 PM

CB

“ So saddened to hear today that Billy Tayac passed away last week. I remember meeting him through Avery Windrider when I was a teenager. He was a good friend to my parents Donna and Alan Beaulieu) and as a kid, I remember going to his house, various gatherings, and protests, he was always an inspiration to me.

So sorry we didn't know about his passing until this afternoon and missed the services today. The Tayac family is in our prayers and thoughts.

Colette Little Fawn Beaulieu
Alan Beaulieu
Jamie Beaulieu
Angela Daniels Beaulieu

Colette Beaulieu - September 13, 2021 at 02:58 PM

LR

“ Chief Billy Redwing Tayac was a true servant as a freedom fighter for his nation, his people and the movement. We send our condolences to his family and love ones. Brother Tayac's works stand out as a shining example of hope and dignity.

African Awareness Association Inc.
www-aaa-coubtours.com

Lee Clyde Robinson - September 13, 2021 at 12:56 PM

RP

“ *Billy Tayac was a friend of the Posey family for most of his life. My dad and his dad were friends for decades. I always enjoyed talking to Billy, I always learned something new. I was glad that he helped me broaden my point of view. I looked up to him as an Elder. I will miss him.*

Richard Posey



Richard Posey - September 12, 2021 at 07:47 PM

DH

“ *Sad news to hear about Billy Tayac, He was a good man and made an impact on generations. He helped countless people. I have great memories spending time on his land. People gathered from across the nation to come to his Sundance. He'll be remembered forever. Our prayers and condolences to his family.*

Dylan Bruderer Howse and the Boncore Bruderer family.

Dylan Bruderer Howse - September 12, 2021 at 07:34 PM

A(

“ September 12, 2021

From the All-African People's Revolutionary Party (GC)

It is with profound sadness and grief that we send our condolences to the people of the Piscataway Nation, and especially to the family of our brother, comrade, and friend, Chief Billy Redwing Tayac, who has joined the elders.

Our Party, the All-African People's Revolutionary Party (GC), and its women wing the All-African Women's Revolutionary Union will cherish the great memories we have of brother, Chief Billy; the work we have done together; the struggles we undertook; the Sun Dances and the Sweat Lodges in Port Tobacco.

To us, Chief Billy Tayac exemplified the best of the American Indian Movement and the International Indian Treaty Council. He will live forever in our memories and in the history of our struggle.

*Secretariat,
Pan-African and International Affairs
All-African People's Revolutionary Party (GC)*

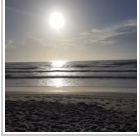
A-APRP (GC) - September 12, 2021 at 02:40 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Chief Billy Redwing Tayac.



September 12, 2021 at 09:33 AM



“ Since 1962 I have had the privilege of knowing the Proctor/Tayac and Dodge families. Many fond memories. Sincere condolences to all of the families. Your father was a true light of love and hope to so many. God bless.

Robin Taranto

Robin Taranto - September 12, 2021 at 09:07 AM



“ I remember when, 40 years ago, Chief Tayac traveled to Middle River, Md. (from Oxon Hill) to give presentations to the students at the Junior High. A man of honor and integrity. May he look after us from above.

Joe DeFilippo - September 12, 2021 at 07:51 AM

VA

“ Chief you will forever remain in our hearts. Thank you for all you have done for our people. For our PDJ runners, It was an honor to know you and to attend the Piscataway nation's Awakening of Mother earth Ceremony and have you Chief Billy and sun-dancers add their prayers to our sacred staffs. Thank you as well for hosting our runners forever our sacred staff will carry the Blessings of the Piscataway Nation.

With the spirits of the ancestors guiding us along the way and the prayers and good thoughts of all of our PDJ family and friends of PDJ, we look forward to once again take part in the fulfillment of the Prophecy of the Eagle and the Condor in 2024 and you will be with us Chief every step of the way.

Rest in your power great leader you are now among the Eagles of our nations who from the world of the spirit look after all of our people.

The PDJ family will lite their fires with love in our hearts for you Chief Billy Redwing Tayac. We love you Chief and we will celebrate your life great Eagle.

Haomm Tio BoGuama, Ifili Kasike Bo ... Bohio Atabei Inaruno Yuka Jagua Guaribono mukuta yentua ba iri oma Anshihi.

Wa mukuta yentua urako areito wa iri kena ba taha Guama Kasike Billy Redwing Tayac Wa mukuta yeantua urako areito mun bui teketa tekina. BoGuama ba iri kena ba yani mukuta kakuh urako apito kena urako wa fauna'no imewabo .

HaHomm Bo Kuyaya Bo Kasike. Hahom ❤️

Vanessa inaru /Bohio Atabei - September 12, 2021 at 05:14 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Chief Billy Redwing Tayac.*



September 11, 2021 at 10:26 AM



“ *National Park Service purchased the Summer's Light Bouquet for the family of Chief Billy Redwing Tayac.*



National Park Service - September 10, 2021 at 06:33 PM



“ *A wonderful soul has left us. I want to thank you Billy for being Rudy's best man at our wedding 20 years ago. I know the friendship and brotherhood you and Rudy has here on earth will continue throughout eternity. Keeping your family in prayers for guidance. Thank you for being my friend. Love, Barbara Hawk.*

Barbara Hawk - September 10, 2021 at 05:43 PM



“ *Deepest condolences from the Proctor/Calloway family.*

Chris Brooks - September 10, 2021 at 05:14 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Chief Billy Redwing Tayac.*



September 10, 2021 at 02:56 PM



“ *I am so sad to hear of Billy's passing. He was a long time friend of the family and my father's blood brother. Billy was greatly admired and respected by my father and myself. My family and I were blessed to have Billy in our lives. I hope Billy and my father are running renegade together as they did in their boyhood. God bless you Billy and bless your family as they grieve in your loss.*

Michael Hawk and Family - September 10, 2021 at 02:46 PM



“ *I had the privilege and pleasure to get to know Chief Bill Redwing Tayac know many, many years ago helping in small ways with his father's funeral, and through subsequent events and festivals. Prayers for his journey and his family. May his memory live on and be for a blessing.*

Rick Gwynallen - September 10, 2021 at 12:33 PM



“ *Billy Red Wing Tayac will live in my memory as a source of inspiration and information. May his journey to Creator be swift and pleasant as he joins the ancestors. Rico*

Rico - September 10, 2021 at 09:33 AM

JS

“ *Condolences to the family, my sisters and I attended many Sundances in Maryland with Chief Billy Tayac family and others....*
Juanita Saz

Juanita Saz - September 10, 2021 at 07:49 AM

DM

“ *Condolences to the Tayac family. A great man with amazing courage! Billy was a true friend! Many stories. Now he walks with his ancestors and the angels.*

Dr. Terry McGuire

Dr. Terry McGuire - September 10, 2021 at 06:53 AM

NI

“ *Prayers to the family.*
Chief Donna Abbott & the
Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians, Inc.



Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians, Inc. - September 10, 2021 at 06:32 AM

RC

“ *Robin and Rhett Cecil purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Chief Billy Redwing Tayac.*



Robin and Rhett Cecil - September 09, 2021 at 10:12 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Chief Billy Redwing Tayac.*



September 09, 2021 at 07:54 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Chief Billy Redwing Tayac.*



September 09, 2021 at 06:31 PM



“ *To Chief Billy's family and people. You will be missed by all the native family of Maryland. You will never be forgotten. Tell Crow and Rudy hi for me.*



Debra Henry - September 09, 2021 at 06:02 PM



“ *Condolences to the Tayac Family and Piscataway Nation. Uncle Billy will be missed. He and I had many conversations with elder knowledge that he passed on to me. I loved him like a dad because he was the same age as my father. May his journey among the stars be safe and I'll be looking for that bright star in the night.*

Verona Irarte - September 09, 2021 at 05:27 PM

GC

“ Condolences to the Tayac family and friends. Chief Billy Tayac and Chief Mary Tayac are 2 of my heros that I have the hghest respect and admiration for. Gary Cat Colbert

Gary Colbert - September 09, 2021 at 05:10 PM

MM

“ This is Michelle Lee McFerren
Friend of family call me please
5712137156
Text funeral where and what day and
Time
Blessings
Thank you
Send text Aldo with telephone no
You will be calling me from
Thanks again

Michelle Lee Mcferren - September 09, 2021 at 02:10 PM

DH

Hi my condolences to the tayac family sorry for your loss.our prayers are with you

David Harley - September 09, 2021 at 04:12 PM

SP

My heart go out to the Tayac Family. I will miss him and his knowledge of our tribe. My mom and dad looked up to him. They passed earlier and respected him and Mark and Gabriella. My prayers goes up to you all. Great Man Great Chief. Love Peaches Proctor

Sandee Proctor - September 09, 2021 at 09:08 PM

PP

“ A celebration and a loss of a leader, advocate, and teacher--

"I'm not indigenous to Maryland. [The Piscataway were in the area long before it became a state]. I'm indigenous to the Chesapeake Bay area," Chief Tayac once said. He helped many learn facts about Native peoples and dramatically raised their profile, yet he had a broader public influence. For example, the first time I encountered his powerful presence was at a huge event with an international peace focus. Atomic bomb survivors [hibakusha] known as the Hiroshima Maidens were being honored. Billy Tayac opened the event and I learned later that he generously gave his time in this way. I am thankful for similar contributions he (and his son Mark) made to the Quaker community in this region. And I appreciate that he was a member of AIM.

Patricia R. Powers, Baltimore Yearly Meeting Indian Affairs Committee

Pat Powers - September 09, 2021 at 01:22 PM

VP

I had the experience of standing next to Chief Tayac during a Change-the-Redskins-Name protest at the football stadium, where I received an education, that afternoon. Given the negative attitudes that we faced that day, I can only admire him for his courage and for his relentless pursuit of justice and dignity for Native peoples. I did not know that he was born in D.C., as was I. I was so heartened to see him at the powwow in Adams Morgan, in Washington, D.C., years ago, at the Marie Reid Learning Center. He clearly appeared to be overseeing all the events, and his presence was unmistakable. I shall miss him, and I am grateful, because of him, and Gabriella, that I will always have these precious memories. I wish the family comfort, and healing, that hopefully, will come with time, but also, a feeling that Chief Tayac has Walked On with the love and respect of so many, who knew him. Victoria Price (Blue Wolf).

Victoria L. Price - September 10, 2021 at 12:33 AM

MZ

I was saddened to hear the news about Billy's passing and send my sincere condolences and best wishes to Mark, Nora and their families. I first met Billy, Shirley, Mark, Nora and Turkey more than 40 years ago when I was 16 or 17. They were wonderful, generous, warm people who treated me like family. For more than a decade, we shared many meals at their dining table, watched Billy Jack movies, traveled together, experienced so many things together. I learned so much. I loved them so much. Eventually, I moved across country and we gradually lost touch, but the memories never faded. A great man is gone, a precious friend, a wise leader. One of a kind, he will be missed by many who's lives he touched.

Michele Zaarour - September 10, 2021 at 03:18 AM

VP

Victoria Price has made a donation to the American Heart Association in memory of Chief Billy Tayac.

Victoria Price - September 11, 2021 at 10:01 AM