ERVIN JAMES (JIMMY MAC) MCCORMACK

APRIL 3, 1936 - NOVEMBER 27, 2018

Military Service

- U.S. Navy 1956-1975

- TM1, Torpedoman's Mate Petty Officer 1st class

- Served on the USS Barbel, USS Charr, USS Dogfish, USS Wahoo which were Barbel, Balao, and Tang-class submarines, respectively

- Served multiple tours spanning the Pacific during the Vietnam war, preparing, maintaining, and launching underwater weaponry

Rodeo Days

- Mr. McCormack competed as a bull rider in All Indian rodeos throughout Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Utah, Colorado, Washington, and Oregon.

- Some of the rodeos he rode in were the Pendleton Roundup and the famous Omak Stampede. Mr. McCormack and a group of friends also liked to compete in the Wild Horse races where he once had his thumb bit off.
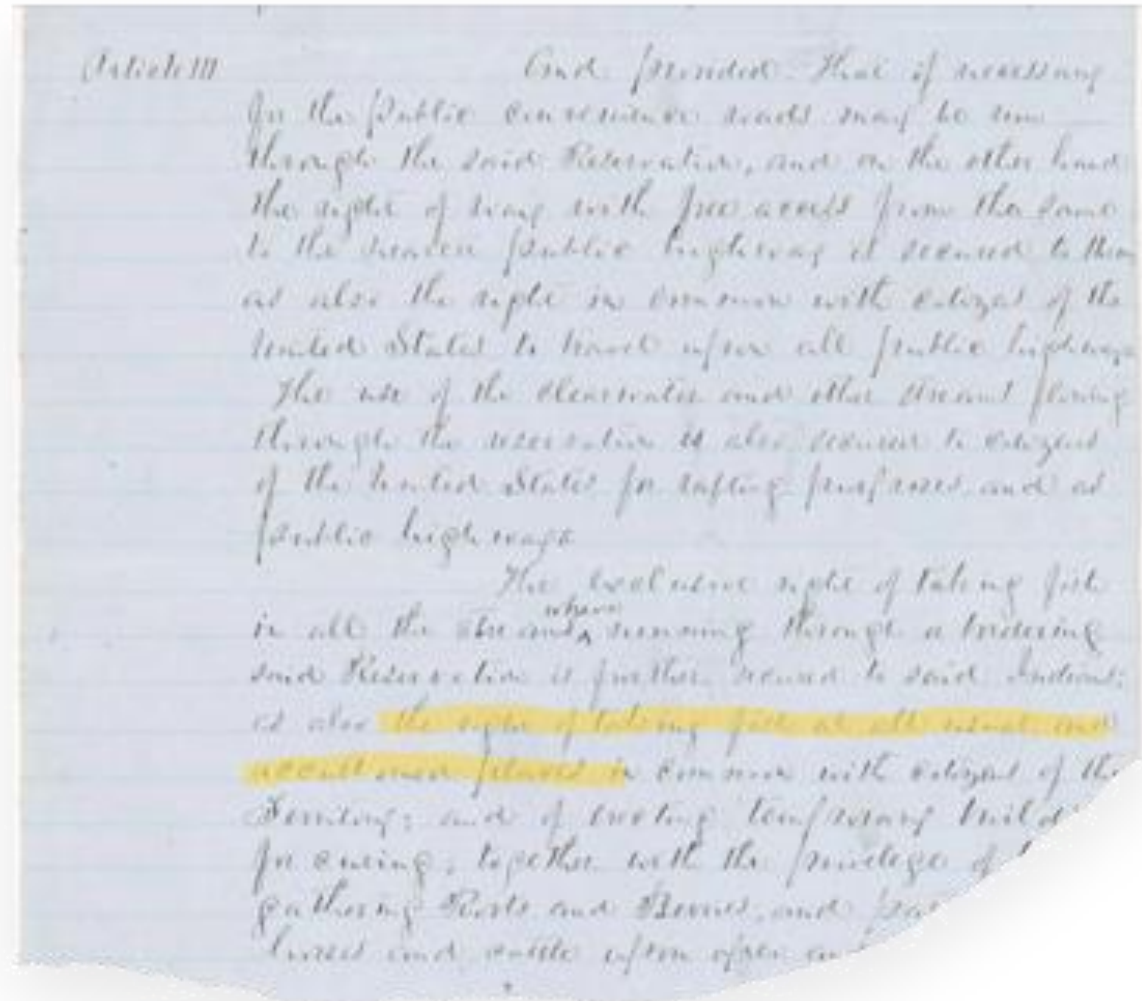
...you can't eat the horns!

• Mr. McCormack spent time taking fish and harvesting food from the plains to the Pacific.

• Making the most of every part of the animal was a strong belief of his, as was being selective about what animals he took from the land.
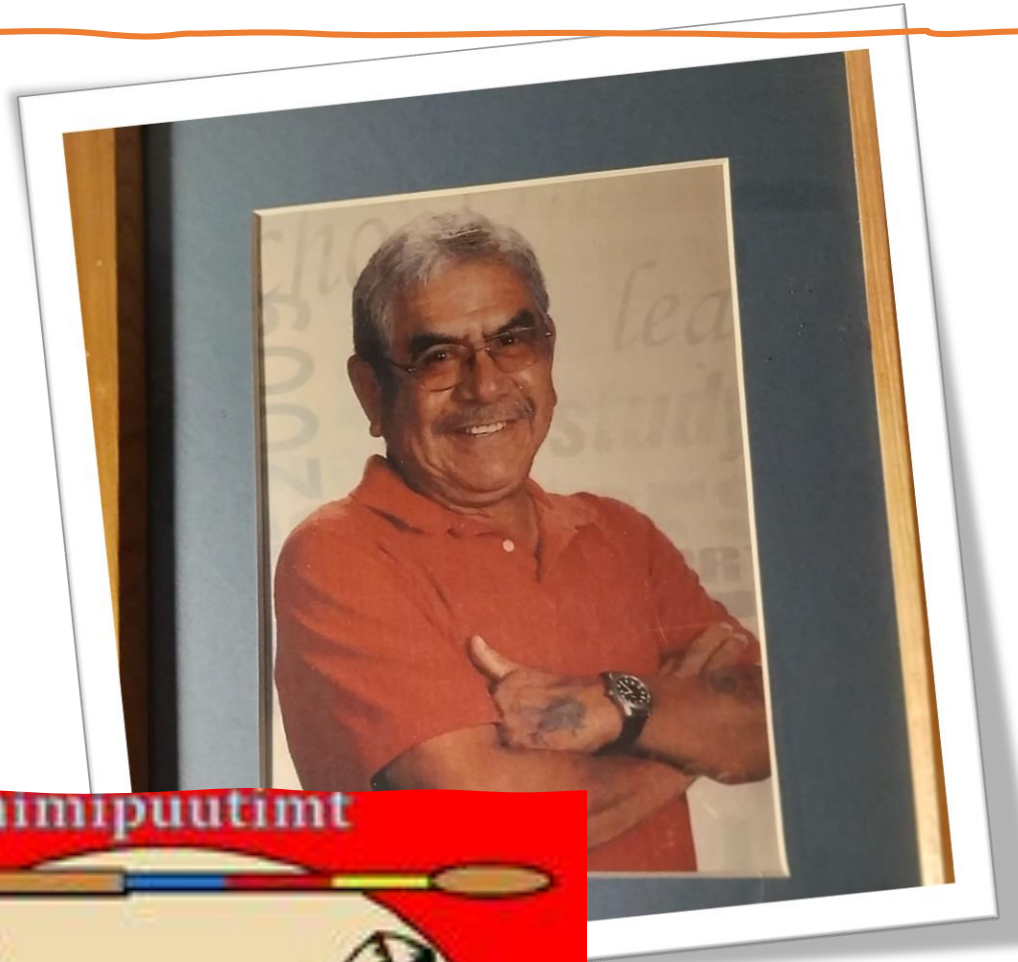
…usual and accustomed places…

Exerciser & advocate of fishing rights, Mr. McCormack enjoyed taking fish from the Columbia River basin. Some of his most memorable moments were on the Columbia, the Selway, the North Fork, and the Salmon.

Article III, 1855 Treaty

...learn the language & the culture will follow...

From 1998-2018, Mr. McCormack taught Nez Perce Language & Native History for Northwest Indian College Lapwai High School

nimipuutimt

"Heartbeat of our culture"

Congratulations Jim McCormack

Mr. McCormack was honored with Lewis-Clark State College and LCSC Native American Club Lifetime Achievement Award.

Congratulations! The Lapwai School District is honored to have Mr. McCormack as a Nez Perce language teacher at Lapwai Middle-High School.

Nez Perce language instruction is provided preschool through 12th grade with high school students earning college credit.

Qe'ciyew'yew' Del Rae Kipp for sharing the photograph.