

Leonard Peltier

Statement on the passing of Eileen Janis



With a heavy heart, I will say that Eileen Janis was one of my best friends, as were her parents. What I felt when I heard she was in a coma cannot be captured in words. Sadness, surely. A relentless horror that uranium is still taking my people, far too young, while I am trapped in here. An impotent furor that I could not come home to help her.

Eileen fought for her people. With every breath she took, she fought for our youth, for the kids who wanted to take their lives. She brought them hope and a reason to see another sunrise.

My Sister in Spirit carried a heavy burden.

The love and faith I have in our future generation has not changed.

Eileen has joined our ancestors, another who has died so that others can live.

Our hope lies within our children. I would encourage our people to honor Eileen by looking out for our youth. Give them something to turn to, away from the plague of drugs and alcohol that is now devastating our People.

Give them Ceremony. Give them Living Prayer. Teach them to grow their own food. Teach them to turn to artwork to release their pain. The life of our People is not an easy one. I am testament to that.

Never, never forget who you are. We are the children of Mother Earth, her true caretakers.

I know that Eileen heard me when I spoke to her, although she was in a coma. I thank the Creator for giving us one last moment together.

We will all miss you, Eileen. You will always be one of a kind, my dear.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse.

Doksha,

Leonard Peltier