



Ruth May Oja

November 30, 1954 - May 30, 2018

NORWAY- Ruth May Oja age 63 of Norway, died Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at Dickinson Co. Memorial Hospital in Iron Mountain, MI.

She was born on November 30, 1954 in Ishpeming, the daughter of Arleen (Pearce) and the late William Spencer Felt.

Ruth graduated from National Mine High School in 1972 and attended Northern Michigan University.

She was a victim's advocate for over 27 years, working for the Caring House, Delta Co. Alliance and has been running the program at Hannahville Potawatomi Indian Community for over 20 years. Her efforts have helped rebuild and empower countless women, helping them escape domestic violence situations.

Ruth is survived by her son Jeremy Oja of Norway; daughter Devon (Emil) Walsh of North Carolina; grandsons Justice and Leo; mother Arleen Felt of Ishpeming; sisters Roberta (Terry) Minzey of Ishpeming and Beth Felt of Marquette; several nieces and nephews.

Family will greet friends on Thursday, June 7 from 4-5 p.m. at the Ortman Funeral Home in Norway.

A Memorial Service will be held on Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Ortman Funeral Home.

Family suggests that memorial contributions may be made to the NCADV (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence).

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 7. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Ortman Funeral Home
618 Norway Street
P.O. Box 155
Norway, MI 49870
(906) 563-5700
ortmanfuneralhome@norwaymi.com
<https://www.ortmanfuneralhome.com/>

Memorial Service

JUN 7. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

SE

“ my condolences to the family of this amazing woman.....she was there for me during a rough time in my life.....she gave me strength to face my abuser and not be a victim anymore....without her influence I would not be the woman i am today...i love and adore this woman for all she gave to hundreds of woman life me...RIP Ruth.....theres a special place in heaven for woman like you....thanks for all you did for us all...



Sandra Ecker - June 14, 2018 at 08:44 PM

KA

“ My sympathies to the family. Ruth was a wonderful person. I met Ruth at my first victim advocate training 20 years ago. We struck up a friendship immediately. Ruth was always easy to work with if I needed assistance and easy to be a sounding board if I was stuck for a solution. Ruth touched the lives of many and will be missed.

Karen Alvord - June 07, 2018 at 02:41 PM

LW

“ To Ruth's family. I had the pleasure of knowing Ruth through her weekly treatments. She was one of my favorite people. She made me a beautiful breast cancer wind catcher I have in my kitchen. I will cherish our talks and her wisdom. Gods peace. Lisa

lisa wangerin - June 07, 2018 at 01:51 PM

VF

“ *Victim Services Department workers and friends purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Ruth May Oja.*



Victim Services Department workers and friends - June 07, 2018 at 01:31 PM

LM

“ *LAC VIEUX DESERT TRIBE - WATERSMEET MI purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ruth May Oja.*



LAC VIEUX DESERT TRIBE - WATERSMEET MI - June 06, 2018 at 11:25 AM

TI

“ *Tribal Council, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Ruth May Oja.*



Tribal Council, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians - June 04, 2018 at 12:11 PM

AS

“ *Devon and family...sending prayers of comfort and peace to you and your family at this time. Love you...Paul and Dina*

Anna D. Simcox - June 04, 2018 at 09:20 AM

SO

“ To Ruth's Family,
So sorry to hear of your loss. Ruth was my classmate and we graduated together. I will always remember Ruth as one of my very best friends. May she rest in peace. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers during this very sad time.
God Bless,
Sherry Olmsted

Sherry Olmsted - June 02, 2018 at 01:42 PM

NM

You may be gone from our eyes, hands, ears and mouth but you will always reside in my heart and memories of laughter and so many shared trips to conferences, my friend Ru. Love you and look forward to seeing you again on the other side!!

What you have given to our women is their dignity and worthiness back so they could find the strength they had in their soul to stand tall and firm again and take our place alongside our ancestral womenkind.

A TRUE proud woman who knew how to give graciously and knew it helped her in her own life struggles and pain.

Ru....."MNOAKIIKWE" (a good woman of the earth)

Noreena Mae Meshigaud, tribal member and a good friend in Hannahville Indian Community.

Noreena Meshigaud - June 07, 2018 at 02:36 PM

S(

“ Arleen, Jeremy, Devon, Roberta & Beth, So sorry to hear of Ruth's passing. I knew her when she lived on 581 in Ishpeming. We were in a food co-op together. She was always so kind and smiley. She will be missed by many. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time.

Sue Holmgren (Felt) - June 02, 2018 at 07:49 AM

SP

“ *Sandra Lynn Pilgrim-Lewis lit a candle in memory of Ruth May Oja*



Sandra Lynn Pilgrim-Lewis - June 01, 2018 at 12:03 PM

SP

Ruth's presence will be missed far and wide. Her passion, dedication and endurance has touched and made a difference in the lives of countless people and communities!

Sandra Lynn Pilgrim-Lewis - June 01, 2018 at 12:05 PM

SG

“ *Ruth I will miss our talks and even disagreements at times. You were a great asset to the Hannahville Indian community in many ways. I worked you in Iron Mountain and Hannahville and always admired your dedication to the women and men you worked with. We had many talks and projects together and you were always someone I could count on. Your contribution to cultural activities, ideas for projects, and ability to continue the victims programs was remarkable. Your spirit and wisdom will not be forgotten. I pray for strength and peace for your family and know you are on your journey to a good place.*
Sue Gustafson

sue gustafson - June 01, 2018 at 08:53 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ruth May Oja.*



June 01, 2018 at 08:46 AM



“ *Ruth I know your spirit is with the Creator, you have a loving, caring and beautiful soul. I was blessed to work with you but to also call you a friend. There are countless women who lives have been changed for the better, and probably many who are still alive because you helped empower, and guide them out of some very dark situations. Always smiling and your sense of humor would brighten anyone's day. two beautiful children who you took such pride in, and I'm sure your grandchildren too. No goodbyes, it's until we meet again my friend.*

Amy Hay - May 31, 2018 at 10:22 PM