



In Memory of Tyler Barlowe

With sad hearts, the Department of Corrections was recently informed of the passing of Mr. Tyler Barlowe, a long-time Native American volunteer and previous Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) Chaplain. Mr. Barlowe was seen by many as the Correctional Tribal Elder regarding the spiritual customs and needs of all Native and Tribal persons in custody.

Mr. Barlowe's rich history included life experience and education on reservations for Tribes, terminated by governmental decision in the 1950s. His grandfather and great-grandfather were amongst those tribal members who fought against the government, were forced off their land to Oklahoma, and eventually allowed to return to Oregon. His wealth of memory, experience, and dedication to Tribal spirituality earned him a resolution adopted by the Klamath Tribes in 1999 recognizing him as a spiritual leader.

As a spiritual leader, Mr. Barlowe brought much insight to Native and Tribal adults in custody as well as to DOC and Religious Services. His service to Oregon Corrections began in 1993 as a volunteer; he was hired as a Chaplain at the Oregon State Penitentiary from 2003-2007 and continued as a volunteer for over 30 years.

Mr. Barlowe will be greatly missed by all, but especially those thousands of adults in custody he served weekly in services and activities including Sweat Lodge, Talking Circle, and Powwow. To provide these services, Mr. Barlowe often traveled great distances to the Department's twelve correctional institutions.

As we honor Mr. Barlowe for his time and service, we offer our condolences to his acquaintances and those who are feeling the great loss in his passing.

Please keep his family, and Tribal brothers and sisters in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate through their loss. He will be greatly missed by us all.

Sources: DOC Religious Service Unit; Ms. Trish Jordon, Red Lodge Transitional Services; Mr. Tom O'Connor, DOC Religious Services Administrator, retired; and "Tyler Barlowe, Karuna Thompson Re-Kindling the Fire – Historical Trauma in Native American Prison Inmates."