

Lois June Powless, daughter of Simon and Irene Metoxen Moore was born and raised on her family farm in Oneida where she acquired her strong work ethic and dedication and love for family. Lois and her two sisters Margaret and Lillian were raised to love and contribute to family and community early in life by the example set by their parents. Lois watched Irene give her time and commitment to her church, to her community, and to her family, with the intention of building a strong Oneida, not for Irene, but for Oneida people yet to come. Irene served the Oneida Nation from her heart, leading by example, her daughters naturally followed.

Lois married John Edwin Powless Sr. in 1947 and together they raised four sons and two daughters. John Jr., Patricia Lassila, Mark Anthony, David, Dale, and Michelle Hill all who raised families with the same love for Oneida as their ancestors before them.

Lois served on many boards and committees for over fifty years. She worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for the Oneida people while working for the Oneida Business Committee, the Oneida Housing Board, Oneida Land Commission, Oneida Retail, ONCOA and many others. As an Oneida woman who was raised on a farm milking cows, and cooking for the family at an early age, Lois never said “that’s not my job.” Rather, she would do what needed to be done or find the right resources available to get things done.

Lois is a proud Indigenous woman. She is proud of her parents and the legacy left by her mother Irene Moore, and her father Simon Moore. She loved her husband with her whole heart and is proud of the family they raised together. She is proud of the positions she served in the Oneida Nation and is most proud of how she left an example of a committed work ethic and community engagement for all who know her.

In appreciation of her hard work and dedication to Oneida, Lois was presented a bicentennial blanket and beautiful beaded Oneida seal necklace. As small tokens of all we have grown to appreciate about Lois, they represent the heart, mind and fire that is so strong in Lois, we are honored to have her legacy to celebrate today.