



**Sharon R. House**

**November 10, 1948 - September 1, 2024**

Sharon Rose House (Kathohkwáhwé? -she's holding a bundle), 75, of Oneida, began her journey to the Creator on September 1, 2024, surrounded by her family and closest friends. Sharon was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin on November 10, 1948 to her loving parents Roy and Leone (McCarrell) House. She is a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin.

Sharon was known for her zealous commitment to protecting and promoting the tribal inherent sovereignty of Native American tribes. A trailblazer and expert in the field of Indian Gaming Regulatory Law, she dedicated her life to ensuring that tribes were self-governing and sustaining their tribal governments through economic development. In addition to her legal acumen, Sharon was a mentor, educator, and advocate, who inspired a generation of Native American attorneys and leaders.

Sharon graduated from St. Mary's School for Episcopal Indian Girls, Springfield, South Dakota. She attended Cottey Junior College, Nevada, Missouri and Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree. She then attended the Oneida CETA Paralegal Program and was accepted into the Pre-Law Summer Institute for American Indians (PLSI) at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. In 1983 she received her juris doctorate degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School, in Madison, Wisconsin. Sharon specialized in Indian law, negotiations, gaming, gaming regulation, franchising, corporations, and financing. She was a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin, Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court of the United States.

From 1971 until her retirement, Sharon worked in several different capacities for the Oneida Nation including Youth and Career Development, In-House Counsel Attorney for the Oneida Gaming Commission, and an Appellate Court Judge. Sharon also served as legal counsel for many tribes throughout Indian Country in the areas of gaming and gaming regulation.

Some of her many awards and accomplishments include Student of the Year from the National Indian Education Association, Student of the Year from the Legal Educational Opportunity Program, and she received a Special Achievement Award from Black Hills State University. Sharon was recognized as being a member of the first board of the "Women's Participation in the Bar" through the Wisconsin State Bar. She was legal counsel for the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin Negotiation Team for Gaming Compact Negotiations with the State of Wisconsin, as well as being legal counsel for the negotiation teams for the Shoshone Bannock Tribe and State of Idaho gaming compact, and the California State Association Attorney work group and the California Gambling Control Commission. She was a member of the

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) Task Force to negotiate and limit IGRA amendments. She co-chaired the Minimum Internal Control Standards tribal work group for NCAI and NIGA. She was also nominated by the NCAI and NIGA taskforce to sit as the NIGC Commissioner, which she declined.

In 2010, Sharon was a recipient of the 2010 Great Women of Gaming Proven Leader Awards given by the Casino Enterprise Management. She deeply understood the critical importance of self-governance for tribes, recognizing that they should regulate themselves with the dignity and autonomy they rightfully deserve. With this in mind, she helped establish and develop the National Tribal Gaming Commissioners and Regulators (NTGCR) in the mid-1990s with support from the NIGA ensuring that tribal gaming is conducted with integrity and respect for tribal sovereignty.

Outside of her work she enjoyed strong coffee, the Green Bay Packers, food, getting her nails done, music, line dancing, especially the electric slide, watching her family play sports, attending pow wows and her cowboy boots. She will be lovingly remembered by all who knew her for her laughter, sense of humor, loyalty, being genuine, and her willingness to stand up and fight for what's right for people and tribes. She impacted Native American people throughout Indian country during the past, present and future.

Sharon is survived by her six children and their families; Dakota, Corben (Jolene), Yuma (Leah), Crystal, Rhiannon "RC" (Mike), and Tsyoslake (Jamie). As well as twenty-one grandchildren; Summer, Bailey, Marissa, Alyssa, Lindsey, Jossalyn, Baby Corben, Abigayle, Loh<sup>ti</sup>=yo, Landon, Aubrey, Austin, Lillyanna, Lawisana=w<sup>se</sup>, Leland, Logan, Ezias, Daemen, Dakota, Arabella, and August, and three great-grandchildren; Sophia, Jojo, and Daisey. She is further survived by her special cousin, Debbie House

Powless and special friend, Nathan Small. Special thanks to Unity Hospice, Meadowbrook Nursing Home nurses and staff, our fire keepers and pall bearers, and our family & friends who donated their time, firewood, food, thoughts and prayers throughout this difficult time. Finally, a very special thanks to Dawn Reiter (her closest friend and sister) and her twins, Melinda and Melissa for always being a beacon of love and support for the family.

Sharon is preceded in death by her parents Roy and Leone House, granddaughter Jalyn Arelet House, son Baby Boy Cornelius, and many close family members.

Family and friends may visit at Ryan Funeral Home, 305 N. Tenth Street, De Pere, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 5, 2024. The Oneida Hymn Singers will have a song service from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. with an opportunity to share stories following.

Visitation will continue at 9:00 a.m. Friday morning, September 6, 2024. A funeral service will begin at 11:00 a.m.