



BLACKFEET NATION

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Blackfeet Tribal Member and Firefighter Returns Home to Montana

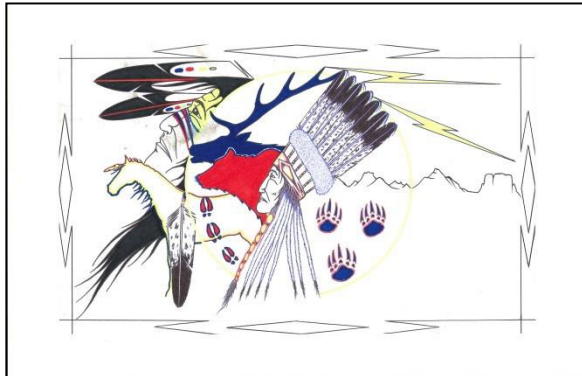
For Immediate Release

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December 4, 2016



Above: Last pictures Darryl drew while assigned as the quad boss for the Blackfoot camp crew.

Missoula MT – A procession for Blackfeet Firefighter Darryl “Poor Boy” Vielle will take place today in Missoula, MT. The procession will begin at 4:30 p.m. from the Missoula Smoke Jumper base and proceed north along Hwy. 93 to Foster Funeral Home in St. Ignatius, MT.

Due to winter weather warnings, the procession, once reaching St. Ignatius, will be closed to the public to minimize traffic through the Continental Divide. At St. Ignatius, he will be watched by an honor guard overnight and be returned home to Browning on Monday at approximately 12:00 p.m. The procession will travel through U.S. Hwy 93 & 2. Upon arrival in Browning, the process will go down Main Street where his family, fellow firefighters, crew members and community will welcome him at the Stick Arbor where the wake will take place.

Darryl “Poor Boy” Elden Vielle, was a Blackfeet Nation firefighter serving on a Camp Crew at the Maple Spring Fire in North Carolina when he was found deceased in his room on the morning of November 30, 2016 at the Phillips Hotel in Robbinsville, NC. When found, local emergency personnel administered CPR; however, it was initially determined he may have passed hours earlier prior to discovery.

Darryl was a seasoned wildland firefighter with 28 years of experience. He began his career in 1984 working as a firefighter for the Blackfeet Nation’s wildland fire crews. Over the years, he gained experience working in nearly every capacity of the fire management program, frequently serving as a squad boss, engine foreman, crew boss, and incident commander for small incidents. He was serving as a squad boss for the eight-member camp crew when he was found unresponsive November 30th.

Known to be an outgoing and kindhearted leader, Darryl enjoyed his work, loved his community and was also fond of drawing. His mother and four sons survive him who will be in attendance during the procession that will take him home to Browning, MT. Out of respect for the family, they are requesting privacy as they grieve his loss. **#END#**