

Carol Janet Piscoya Biography

Carol Janet Miller was born on March 18, 1945 in Nome, Alaska to Hannah “Chaqipik” Alexine Miller and Andrew Clarence Miller Sr. She is one of many siblings: Andrew Jr., Richard, Harvey, Kenny, Martin, Marlin, Barbara, Sharon, Frankie, Gladys, Jimmie and Eddie.

Carol married Roy Piscoya on October 21, 1963 in Nome, Alaska. Throughout the years, Carol and Roy had 6 children: Thomas, Stanley, Kevin, Lawrence, William and Bonnie. Carol and Roy had taken in many foster children over the years have adopted three of them. Carol and Roy have 26 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren with one more on the way.

Carol and Roy raised many children and affected many foster children’s lives in a very positive manner. They remained married for 55 years until Roy passed away on December 6, 2018. Throughout those many years of marriage, Carol remained home raising the children for many years while Roy served in the Alaska National Guard for 27 years and 9 months. Raising kids was their priority, making sure that kids were cared for, loved and knew their culture and most of all, knew how important to be raised by strong supporting parents.

In between raising her children and many foster children, Carol was employed with at: Alaska Airlines, Nome Eskimo Community, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Nome Public Schools, State of Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs, and eventually had become the CEO/President of Norton Sound Health Corporation after working as their Vice President of Community Health Services for several years. Currently, Carol is Community Health Services Vice President at Kawerak, Inc. She manages the two children at home and the full time VP position at Kawerak, Inc. Carol currently serves on the Nome Public Safety Advisory Commission, Nome Planning Commission and has previously served two terms as member of the Nome Public Schools. She also served 3 years on Nome Pre-School Board and the Nome Community Center board.

In the midst of all of her activities, she has practiced, taught and embraced our subsistence lifestyle--just as her mother had. For many years, she has maintained a weekly subsistence meal with friends and relatives. Carol and Roy have also maintained a subsistence camp

which is located on the Norton Sound coast a few miles past the Safety Sound Bridge. During the summers, it was uncommon for Carol and Roy to be in Nome. The only time they would come into town were for medical reasons and various supplies. They spent their entire summers at camp fishing, picking berries and processing the many sea life animals, such as Oogruk and Walrus. Each September their lives were devoted to putting away these foods for the long winters. The summer season ended with hunting and processing moose meat. Carol and Roy have also ensured her children and grandchildren learned the subsistence lifestyle as they have practiced. Carol and Roy were proud to see their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren continue with our traditional and cultural lifestyle. She also loved to sew parkys, clothes, quilts for all the family members, along with knitting and crocheting many blankets, socks, scarves and sweaters for all the kids.

Carol has a work ethic that is rarely matched by anyone. She remained steadfast with ensuring all of the children were fed, clothed, clean and they had completed their chores and school homework. Her years of hard-work have paid off with her children leading successful lives: Thomas is a Captain with 25 years at Alaska Airlines and 3 years with MarkAir; Stanley served and retired with twenty years as a Correctional Officer and City of Nome Police Department, Cynthia is living a good life in Brevig Mission, Kevin served 15 years in the Air Force; Lawrence retired after 25 years as a Lieutenant with the Alaska State Troopers; William is still working with nearly 23 years of service as a Correctional Officer; Bonnie was a Manager at Bering Air in Nome for 10 years and prior to that, 8 years with Alaska Airlines.

Carol and Roy's home, is and always has been, open to anyone needing anything. Additionally, Carol has virtually worked full time at a workplace and full time as Roy's nurse; due to a work-related back injury he sustained earlier in his life, until his passing in Dec. 2018.

Her greatest achievement was that her children are great parents to their children. She often reminded us that our children are our priority and that we need to remember the importance of families. She believed in firm discipline but always supported us with our decisions and choices. She used to say, and still does, that children crave discipline and when they don't get it, the children think that they aren't loved because parents don't care about what they are doing.

She says that her advice to the younger generation, be proud of yourself, your culture, and that your family is your highest priority in life. If you have kids, take care of them, teach respect for each other and respect for others, be proud of who they are and one day they will be our leaders, as my children have already done. Teach them to be responsible by learning chores while very young and they will develop good strong work ethics.

This biography is written by her children. Our mother is still very actively working, taking care of kids and practicing her subsistence way of life while teaching us our culture and traditions, as she was taught by her parents. We are very proud of her. We are grateful she has been nominated and selected as Sitnasuak Native Corporation's, 2020 Elder of the Year.