Susanne A. Toliver, most of you may know her as Susie, was born in King Island, Alaska on June 21, 1951, her parents are Helen & Simon Pushruk. She lived in King Island until she was 3-4 years old, when her parents moved her family to Nome. Susie’s siblings are Anthony II, Gloria, Genevieve, Frank & Victoria. In the early 60’s many King Islanders moved to Nome for the education of their youth... Susanne’s family was one of them.

Susanne was raised in Nome until 1969 when her family moved to Anchorage where she graduated from East Anchorage High School. Growing up, her father did longshoring, and her mother did skin sewing which she sold to tourists during the summer in Nome. Susanne fondly remembers her years growing up on the East End in Nome where her family spent their time participating in subsistence activities of gathering and preserving foods like surra and many other varieties of greens and berries. She comes from a close-knit family and her memories of her family get-togethers with native food shared, walking up and down the beach searching for sea glass, are near and dear to her heart. These are activities she continues to participate in each year when she visits her family’s camp out in Nuuk, the cabin her husband Steve Moberg built for his mother-in-law Helen Pushruk.

After graduating from East Anchorage High School, Susanne got a job at ARCO as a receptionist where she met her husband, Winston Toliver. She and Winston have two children,
Christopher and Cyndee (their brothers Roy & Tony) and two grandchildren, Jaden, and Jaxson. Susanne spent 23 years at Pen Air as a flight attendant until she retired in 2019. Prior to Pen Air she was also a flight attendant for 5 and half years for Wien Air Alaska. In her spare time, she participates in the King Island Dance Group where she says she feels most at home with her culture – a true expression of her traditions – and she is very proud of it. Her dance group has participated in the Alaska State Fair, ANSEP (Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program) and Quyanna Alaska during AFN and many other events throughout the state as well as overseas in Paraguay. She also belongs to Native Ministry at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church. She enjoys traveling, gardening/planting, and sewing pullover ‘oothithcoak’ (kusbuk). Susanne has strong pride in where she came from, her culture and traditions and loves sharing it – She is a proud Sitnasuakmiut from Uvivok (King Island). Now she says she can officially park in the ‘Elder Parking’ space.