

Curtis “Grey Wolf” Blackdeer



“They are not dead who live in
the hearts they leave behind”

-Native American proverb

Curtis “Grey Wolf” Blackdeer lived a life that touched the hearts of many, including his family, his colleagues, his friends, and his community.

His actions and demonstrations of love, generosity, loyalty, and giving to others embodied the mission of the Greywolf Foundation, which is why we are proud to honor his memory at our annual golf outing.

Curtis was born in 1940, in Neillsville, WI, the son of Earl and Eva (Little Bear) Blackdeer and grew up in a large family with nine siblings. During his youth, and throughout his life, Curtis faced many challenges as a Native American. But, he faced whatever obstacles with a cheerful determination and always strived to see the good in people and opportunities for positive outcomes.

He graduated from Black River Falls High School in 1958 and then immediately served in the United States Navy for six years. Upon leaving the U.S. Navy, Curtis married Karen Hanson in 1965, and they remained happily married until his death in 2019.

Curtis and Karen raised two children, Daniel Blackdeer and Denise Wagner, in Madison, WI. A proud member of the Ho-Chunk tribe, he served the tribe in many official capacities during his life. Professionally, he worked for General Telephone for the majority of his career, where he was known for his eagerness to mentor younger employees. Curtis and Karen were members of the Lake Edge Lutheran Church in Madison.

Cooking and golfing were enjoyable hobbies for Curtis, and he was an avid bowler for many years. He was passionate about spending time with his family and found great joy attending his grandchildren’s numerous sporting events and activities.

Thank you for your support of the Curtis W. Blackdeer Memorial Outing and the impact it will have on the Greywolf Foundation. Know that with every smile, bit of laughter, or moment of cheer you experience today, a bit of Curtis’s spirit will be touching your heart as well.