

BIOGRAPHY



Earnest (Ernie) W. LaPointe, a disabled Vietnam Veteran, was born Aug. 2, 1948 on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation of South Dakota.

He grew up in Rapid City, SD with his half-sister Marlene Little Spotted Horse. Their late mother Angeline LaPointe nee Spotted Horse was a housewife. His late father Claude LaPointe farmed in Pine Ridge and worked in a lumberyard in Rapid City.

Ernie attended the public school system in Rapid City. When he was 10 years old, his mother died of cancer. At age 17 his father died of a heart attack. He lived with his (half) Sister Marlene, who was already

married at that time until he was 18 and old enough to join the military. He was stationed in Korea, Turkey, and Germany, and all over the United States. 1970-71 he did one tour in Vietnam. He got an honorable discharge from the Army in 1972.

Ernie is a Sun Dancer and lives the traditional way of the Lakota and follows the rules of the sacred pipe.

On his Mother's side he is the Great Grandson of Sitting Bull and Seen By Her Nation Woman, Grandson of Standing Holy (Sitting Bull's youngest daughter) her Christian name was Mary Sitting Bull, and Urban Spotted Horse. Ernie can point out a long line of chiefs on his Mother's as well as on his Father's side. His Grandfather Spotted Horse was the son of Hunts Enemy and the Grandson of Chief Charging Bear. His Great Grandmother's (Tokala Win LaPointe) brother was Chief Painted Horse.



In 1992 Ernie was given the opportunity to set the record straight on the Sitting Bull direct blood descendants by speaking at the induction of Sitting Bull into the Hall of Fame of American Indian Chiefs at Anadarko, Oklahoma. Since then he had numerous invitations from Crazy Horse Memorial, South Dakota and the Little Bighorn Battlefield, Montana to speak about his heritage. The History Channel asked for assistance in two documentaries (Command Decisions and History Hogs) in 2004 and 2005.

Ernie LaPointe
808 West Summit St.
Lead, SD 57754
605-722-1190
crowfoot@spe.midco.net