Allison Boucher Krebs

September 8, 1951 - January 26, 2013

Allison Boucher Krebs of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan walked on Saturday, January 26, 2013. "Ally", also known as "Chi-Gaumee-Kwe",was born September 8, 1951 in Washington, D.C., the daughter of Annette Claire Boucher Krebs and William A. Wallace Krebs, Jr. Ally is survived by her two sons, Adam and Zachary Khalil of Brooklyn; her two brothers, Tony Krebs of Seattle and Chris Krebs of Boston; a sister Stephanie Krebs of Sault Ste. Marie; and brothers-in-law Richard Lewis of Sault Ste. Marie and Gary Atkins of Seattle; and sister-in-law Carin Roberge Krebs of Boston. She is also survived by many dear cousins, including Pauline and Dana Andrews, Priscilla Eames, Scott and Sally Boucher, Susie and Mike Chieppo, and Carlye Runyon. A great-great granddaughter of Chief John Boucher, known as "the Rapids Pilot", Ally was related to Cadottes, Cadreaus, Piquettes, Hascalls, and Eames, as well as other families across the river in Canada and on Sugar Island. While a high school student at Newton High School outside Boston, Ally founded the Freeport halfway home for troubled teens. Years later, while raising her young boys in the Sault, she served as Director of the Sault Tribe's Youth Education & Activities program (YEA), from which many young tribal members have benefited. Ally was an adventurer and scholar. She photographed and documented Mayan hieroglyphics in the jungles of Central America, looking under each rock and leaf, carefully turning over a stone to photograph it, then carefully returning it to its original location. Today, her photos are in museum collections at the Metropolitan Museum in New York

and the Peabody Museum at Harvard University. She was in the first class of women undergraduates ever admitted to Yale University. A lifelong learner and published poet, Ally returned to academics later in life, getting a Masters in educational technology at University of Arizona's Knowledge River program, and was completing her PhD in indigenous information ecology at the University of Washington in Seattle. As a researcher & activist, Ally participated in indigenous information conferences around the world, in places like Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. She recently returned to the land of her ancestors, where she focused on her own tribal language and culture and its preservation through research and archiving. She first studied her native language Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) at Bay Mills Community College, then later was mentored by individual scholars and gifted native speakers. Ally also spoke Arabic, French, and Spanish. Mother, sister, friend and mentor, Ally will be greatly missed by all whose lives she touched. "Baamaa pii miinwaa ka-waabmin." Traditional services will be held at Niigaanagiizhik, the Sault Tribe Cultural Center on Wednesday, January 30th, starting at 6:00 p.m. with a feast. All are invited to come and share in the celebration of her life. In lieu of flowers, gifts in her memory may be sent to the American Indian Graduate Center (www.aigcs.org) or to UNITY-United National Indian Tribal Youth (www.unityinc.org).

Tribute Wall

JM

I so enjoyed knowing Ally and was shocked to hear of her passing. I met Ally in graduate school at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Ally was one of the first colleagues that I met when I moved to Tucson and she was such a lovely and warm person. I enjoyed her company when we studied and worked together as scholars in the Knowledge River program. My little girls (ages 3 and 6 months at the time) both liked Ally very much. My heart is heavy and I am saddened to learn of the passing of my dear sweet friend. We lost contact for a few years now and I am sad to have discovered her passing while looking her up. God bless the family and blessings to my friend and colleague. Respectfully, Joseph G. Valdez, MLIS Librarian New Mexico Department of Transportation

Joseph G. Valdez, MLIS - July 11, 2016 at 12:00 AM

WK

I only just learned this sad news. I met Allison in 1968 at a college reunion both our fathers attended. A year later we found ourselves at the same school, and the last time I saw her was in 2008 at another reunion. We went to visit the last of the friends from our dads' class, but he had gone home (he died a year or so later--I was so glad we'd made the effort). We talked about her life, work, sons. She was always so strong, smiling, and positive. She seemed always to have been part of my family, even though we didn't see each other much. I am so sorry to find out she is gone, and my heart goes out to all her loved ones. Wyn

Wyn Kelley - September 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DC

We are devastated to hear of Ally's passing.. She was an amazing talented beautiful person. We loved her!! Sympathies to the whole family!!

The Carrara Family

Denise & Claude Carrara - April 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

FU

There is now a huge gap in humanity that will be hard to fill

Frank Upward - January 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SH

My heartfelt sympathies to the family.

Sue Herne - January 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SB

My condolences. Ally always had a kind word and spoke with such energy about the issues she believed in. She led her colleagues in respectful discussions and she welcomed many voices. I'm grateful to have spent time with her in Austin, Boston, and Los Angeles among archivists.

Sarah Buchanan - January 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LK

I am so sorry for your loss and blessed to have known Ally. We shared some wonderful times together and I will always treasure the memories, her expressive face and bright outlook. I will always be grateful that I got to visit with Ally before she passed. Just a beautiful, giving woman who enriched the lives of many.

~ Lori

Lori King - January 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VS

Ally will be missed. Her spirit and enthusiasm for revitalization of the language in Indian Country was tireless.

My prayers are with you.

Valerie Switzler - January 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SP

Dearest Adam, Zach, Stephanie, Chris and Tony my heart has been with you during Ally's journey.
She has now joined the spirits we love forever.
Be at peace Ally.

sally boucher parks - January 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PK

We will greatly miss Ally, as a researcher, as a presenter (in Australia and the US), but most as a friend.

Professor Eric Ketelaar - January 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DM

Adam, Zach, & Stephanie,

It was a shock to learn of Ally's passing on. Please accept my most sincere condolences. Ally was always a delight to talk with and I wish I could attend her service. I will keep her in mind on the 30th.

You have my deepest sympathy.

Dennis Merkel

Dennis Merkel - January 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TA

Ally, will always be my friend and mentor. Her vibrant smile and happy laughter filled my heart every time I was with her. Her way of looking at LIFE sparked vision and hope. Her touch in the lives of youth, friends and family will always have a ripple effect that will continue to bless us and others. I will greatly miss You,My Ally. Baamaa pii miinwaa ka-waabmin,

Tami Abbott - January 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JC

Ally was one of a kind. Overflowing with energy and enthusiasm, she was committed to making a difference in all her endeavors.

I was thinking of Ally just within the last few days. The phone call from Tami Abbott this morning brought sad news that Ally had departed this earthly life. She definitely made a difference. I am very glad to have had the opportunity to know her.

On behalf of the trustees, staff, and alumni of United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) and the thousands of youth who are members of UNITY-affiliated youth councils, we extend our sympathy to Ally's family and friends.

J. R. Cook - January 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LR

Ally touched our lives in both tangible and spiritual ways. She will be sorely missed. My deepest condolences to her family.

Lynette Russell - January 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GG

Ally stepped into my life for just a few brief moments but was someone who made an instant, joyful impression. My very best wishes and thoughts for those closest to her.

Gabrielle

Gabrielle Gardiner - January 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

IB

Her presence made everything better. I only wish we had more time to share with our dear Ally.

Her wisdom and charismatic smile will always be with us.

Ivette Bayo - January 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DH

I had no idea that Ally was ill and was really sad to hear of her passing. I'll always remember her kindness and passion for learning. What a loss.

Dharma - January 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AH

It is an honor that our paths crossed and intertwined for so many years. I will miss you.
Until see you on the other side love and hugs!
Anita

Anita Heard - January 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DJ

I was introduced to Ally online through a mutual friend Dr Kelvin White (Library and Archival Education) who said Ally would be passing through New Zealand after a conference in Australia a few years ago.

Ally came and stayed with us and as both of us were native, PhD students and spoke our own languages - we had an awesome few days together talking story, and research.

She was an absolutely beautiful soul, highly intelligent, highly empathic, not to mention a fab, archetypal American 'mom' who made me and my 4 other flatmates homemade apple pie and chilli hahahaha x

She spoke very, very fondly of her sons of whom she was 'so' proud of, and couldn't wait to get back to see on returning to the States.

Translation: Go now! Go beyond the veil of time and space! Go to the central point of the Universe where all of our Stars converge! Go take your place in the grand scheme of all things!

David Kukutai Jones - January 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MB

The day I met Ally, we hugged and laughed and talked as though we had always known each other. She was in Melbourne to speak at an Archivists conference and she was staying with my friend Shannon Faulkhead. Ally came to spend a day with me at the State Library and she dreamed with me of the possibilities for Aboriginal people in this and other such a colonial institution. At the conference Ally spoke with strength and dignity and passion, she was a great teacher and I feel blessed to have known her and sad to have lost her. To her family, my deepest sympathies, I am so sorry for your loss

Maxine Briggs - January 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KP

Thank you my dear friend for all the laughter, love and encouragement. Your generous spirit will always inspire me to do more for others. I will miss you my friend.

Kim Penrod - January 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JE

Such a privilege to know Ally for just a little bit - an inspiring woman on so many levels. I have many treasured memories of talking, laughing, debriefing, and venting with her at AERIs and also when she visited Australia. Above all else will miss those wonderful hello and goodbye hugs.

Joanne Evans - January 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DE

Ally brought such a positive and creative element to the world. She is dearly missed by those of us at the Youth Education and Activities Program. Our hearts and prayers are with you.

Dee Eggert - January 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM