

BIOGRAPHY: DELORES PIGSLEY
CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF SILETZ INDIANS

Delores Pigsley was born in Toledo Oregon to Alfred and Maude Lane. The youngest of eight children, lived and grew up at Chemawa Indian School, where her parents were employed. After graduation from Keizer Grade School, attended Serra Catholic High School then graduated from North Salem High in Salem Oregon in 1961.

Delores worked in various jobs throughout her working career, working while going to school, beginning her career with Prudential Insurance Company and retiring from 24 years of work with the Social Security Administration, where she worked as a receptionist, Service Representative, Claims Representation, Field Representative, Operations Analyst, Branch Manager and Operations Supervisor in various locations in Oregon commuting from Salem Oregon.

As an advocate for the Siletz Tribe, she was elected and served on the Siletz Tribal Council from 9/75 – 11/79, when the tribe sought and reversed federal termination. She has been elected and served continuously from 02/83 to the present time, she has served a total of 38 years on the council and has been Tribal Chairman for over 32 years.

In the capacity as Chairman, Delores has been actively involved in tribal government, Indian commissions and boards, committees, and in many other government functions and capacities throughout her career. She has worked closely with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, Administration for Native Americans, Department of Labor, many other federal agencies, Oregon Governors and local governments.

Delores has been and is currently a tribal delegate to the National Congress of American Indians, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the National Congress of American Indians, Chairman of the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services, the National Indian Gaming Association and many other boards and commissions as well as the chief tribal spokesman. As chief negotiator for the tribe, she has successfully negotiated Memorandum's of Understanding, Self-Governance Compacts, Tribal Gaming Compacts as well as many agreements with federal and local governments, colleges and schools. She has testified before congress many times on various issues that affect tribes nationally.

The history of the tribe since termination in the 1950s to restoration in 1977 has been one of growth and prosperity. Delores served on the Restoration Committee and the Gaming Committee, both landmarks in the tribes' successful operation and business.

Delores credits the success of her tribe to all of the past and current tribal council leaders, and to many national tribal leaders serving as mentors. The rebuilding of a tribe takes leadership and community support.

She was married to Donald Pigsley, a member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe of Wagner, South Dakota, she had three children Timothy Troy and Quanna, and seven grandchildren, Don, Troy and Quanna are now deceased.