

My name is Mary Hunt, I was Mary Jorgensen when I was at Copper Valley Boarding School. I am Inupiat, born in Kotzebue, Alaska. I was with the Catholic Nuns and Priests in Holy Cross orphanage, we, myself three brothers and one sister were sent to the orphanage in 1951 or so. When the orphanage closed on Oct of 1956 they sent us to Copper Valley School, outside of Glennallen AK. I was at the school until 1966.

I support "H.R.k5444 the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act".

When I was 21 I had a conversation with one of my brothers. He told me he was gay. I wasn't shocked, my belief was because of sexual abuse my three brothers experienced all those years with the priests. All my brothers served in the US military. All three of them died early due to alcoholism and one drug related. We were stripped of our culture. When I was in my thirties I was determined to work with furs, make salmon strips to connect me with something of my people. Out of the five of us, I'm the only one alive.

Thank you for this opportunity to share, Mary Hunt