Rosa Margaret Pace, Tribal Elder, Leader and Founder of Santa Ynez Tribal Health Clinic, Passes Away at 86

Rosa Margaret Pace, a dedicated and compassionate tribal leader and health care advocate, passed away on August 19, surrounded by family at her home on the Santa Ynez Reservation. She was 86.

Born and raised on the Reservation, Rosa worked tirelessly to improve living conditions and healthcare for tribal families. In the early ’70s, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, like many other tribes across the U.S., had limited access to reliable and quality healthcare. Rosa, an obstetrics nurse, decided to do something about it.

In 1974, Rosa opened the Reservation’s first clinic. The Santa Ynez Tribal Health Clinic began in a small trailer with one exam room. Today, the clinic provides medical, dental and behavioral health services to the community and sees some 17,000 patient visits annually. In 2014, the clinic received the coveted Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Healthcare certificate. Rosa served as the clinic’s executive director until 2000.

“When she set her mind to do something, she did it,” said her son Gary Pace. “She was so loving and giving.”

Rosa was also instrumental in starting the first Urban Indian Health Clinic in Santa Barbara. Her commitment to improving the everyday lives of others didn’t end with healthcare. Rosa was also key in helping bring domestic water to the Reservation in 1969. Rosa, her sister Beatrice Marcoe, and other tribal members organized numerous fundraisers, including fashion shows, to help raise funds for this history-making endeavor.

In addition, Rosa also helped bring a campground, community hall, housing programs and numerous health programs to the Reservation.

The mother of three, grandmother of nine and great-grandmother to nine, also served in numerous tribal leadership roles from 1950 to 2000. In addition to being the clinic’s executive director, Rosa also served on the tribe’s leadership board as Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer.

She was an inspiration and role model to many, especially those closest to her. Rosa’s daughters, Rachel Pace and Elise Tripp have held various roles in tribal committees. Rachel currently serves as the Vice Chair of the tribe’s Education Committee. Her son, Gary Pace, has served on the tribe’s Business Committee since 2004, and her grandson, Kenneth Kahn, is the Business Committee’s Vice Chairman. He has served on the tribe’s leadership board since 2003.

“My grandmother was humble, cared about everyone and wanted everyone included,” said Kahn. “She empowered us to take care of others and ourselves.”

Charles Hiten Succeeds Jens Halle as Managing Director for Merkur Gaming

As the new Managing Director for Merkur Gaming Americas, Charles Hiten is responsible for the sales activities of the Gauselmann Group for North, Central and South America. Following the sudden and much too early passing of Jens Halle, the company is focusing on continuity within its international business. In his new position at Merkur Gaming, Charles Hiten will continue with the process begun by Jens Halle of further consolidating and expanding sales activities in America.

“In the course of his more than 15 years in the gaming industry, Charles Hiten has already held a range of important positions in international companies. Most recently, he was in charge at Novomatic AG of the investment strategy for the Chilean market. As managing director for Merkur Gaming Americas, Charles Hiten will head the business activities in North and South America from his office in Florida in the future. Furthermore, he will also manage activities for the Caribbean market as well as for the Cruise Lines business area.

“The collaboration with Merkur Gaming and the resulting potential are a promising opportunity both for me, as well as for our customers and business partners. Together, we want to continue on the path that Jens Halle began, namely of positioning Merkur Gaming as the most important provider in the Americas region,” Hiten concludes.