

Will Basque



Sma'knis

Will Basque weskwijinuip
Sipekne'katik, Siwkewiku's 8,
1944ek. Wujja Isaak Basqueo'q
aqq wkwijl Elsie Charles Basqueal.



Isaac aqq Elsie malie'wi'titek



Brian, Will aqq Beverly

Ne'silitka wijkimatka,
Marcella(Marty), Briano'q aqq
Beverlyo'q, nepkisnaq mijua'ji'juitek.
Nutqe'kis , eliwsulti'tijek
Pastunkewa'kik. Wunki'kuk naji-
kwilmi'tis lukwaqnn. Etlikwes Pastunkewa'kik aqq
kaqi-kina'masijek na nasa'sis sma'knisewey. Na tujiw
etliaqsip matntimk Vietnam aqq pikwelkik
nutqo'ltijik ji'nmuk aqq e'pijik elta'snik matntimk.



Will aqq Marty (Marcella)

Na'tami tapuiskekipuna'p amskwes eliejek Vietnam. Eykek Vietnam nemiasnik tetuji ewle'jultijik wskwijinu'k aqq ewlamasnik mijua'ji'jk. Teluep Vietnam wskwijinu'k telo'ltijik staqa L'nu'k, na kitnmas mita mu kisi-apoqnmuagik. Nekm aqq



Will eykek Vietnam

witapk ewi'kikewa'tipnik wikmawaq kelutmi'tij wi'katiknn aqq milamu'k koqoey wjit ekinam'asimk, kis-iknmuanew mijua'ji'jk.

Sma'knisewey na teltek, newte'jit wen wjiej matntimk, na ma' nuta'nuk wijikmatl lielin matntimk. Na kisisa' sis Willo'q lien ta'puewey Vietnam kulaman ma' lielikl wjiknaml Brianal. Mu kejituksip ki's Briano'q kisi-pisku-wi'kusionaq sma'kniseweyek.



Brian, Isaac aqq Will

Kaqi-kisa'toq
ta'puewey ela'timk
matntimk, na apaja'sis
Pastunkewa'kik. Mesnkis
lukwaqn alkwi'tekemk.

Na mimajuinu'k
pipanima'titl wtuteskmilin
nikanusewey Pastunkewey
L'nuey Mawio'mi. Piskwa's
nikanusewin, na meno'lasnik msit lukewinu'k tujiw
naso'lasnik ta'n wenik ketloqo ketu' mlkuktmi'tij ta'n
tela'sik Pastunkewey L'nuey Mawio'mi.

Ke'sk eykek Pastunkewa'ki, pikwel- maliaptiksip
L'nuey, mita sma'knisk ta'n tekweywapnik nike'
nikanpukwultijik kaplno'l. Maliaptiksipnl Sa'qewe'l
Ankukamkewe'l.



Will etl-luwetek Pastunkewa'ki



Will eykek Pastunkewa'ki Mawio'mi

Willo'q apaji-pkisinkipnaq Mi'kma'ki 1976ek. Tujiw pekisinkip Essisoqnik naji-mittukwalan wo'kmaq



Will, Catherine Paul, Rosie aqq Mary Bridget Paul

wikultiliji. Na ke'sk i'-peji-mittukwejek welteskuasni Rosie Paulal. Malie'wisnik Peskewiku's 22, 1977ek tujiw siawqatkipnik Essisoqnik. Newipnik



wunijanuaq; Kristen, Bryano'q, Nicholas aqq Anne.



Will aqq L'na'takewaq

Mu awanta'sikip Willo'q ta'n telqaqnik matntimk aqq ta'n telkitnma'tij mijua'ji'jk. Na apoqmatkip ta'n teli jukwa'luj L'na'takewaq mijua'ji'jk atqatmu'tinew Essisoqnik. Teluep kulaman to'q nmittaq wantaqo'ti aqq alsumsimk ta'n ela'timk.

Ne'kaw Willo'q sespete'lmasni sma'knisk. Te's Sma'knisewey Na'kwek, i'-la'tisnik Rosieal Waqmitkuk naji-alasutmajik Vincent Bernardal



wutqutaqnm. Vincento'q siktelusnaq Vietnam. Klapis poqji-maliaptmi'tis Smaknisewey Na'kwek Essisoqnik. Willo'q aqq Rosie elukwatmi'tis

mawatalultimk aqq pestie'wa'ltimk wjit sma'knisk. Willo'q elp naspipnaq Sante' Mawio'mi wjit sma'knisk jel Sante' Mawio'miaq elkima'tisna Pastunkewa'ki 1987ek naji-maliaptmn "Watertown Treaty."



Sante' Mawio'miaq eymu'tijik Watertown

Na ne'wt Willo'q me'si-npas, alapis newtitpa'q. Eksitpu'k Rosie tukietek, Willo'q ekinua'tuaj ktapekiaqn kis-wi'kik wjit msit Sma'knisk wejkwa'taunik aqq elmi'knik. Na to'q Rosie welsitk aqq telimatl Will-al nuta'q se'sakitmn. Na ankmayiw ela'tu'tij kjikank naji-lukwasik. Pikwelkl pilue'l ktapekiaqnn elp kisi wi'kiksipni'kl.

Willo'q apqatkisnaq Pastunkewa'ki, na wejkwi-apaji l'miejek nepk+pnaq Punamujuiku's 16, 1998. Ula etek Sma'knisewey Ktapekiaqn ta'n Willo'q kisi-wikiksip.



Wilfred Charles Basque
Siwkewiku's 8, 1944 - Punamujuiku's 16, 1998

Sma'knis
Will Basque

Ne'kaw i'apaja'si, ki's tujiw weskwijinuianek
Te's pepkwijete'maqn aqq mawio'mi wikmik, njijaqamij
kaqina'siksip iapjiw te's
wenaqa'tu napo'qnm, npuse'kmuti aqq nutapi.
Kitpu alayja'lip espitek, nisatija'sip aqq nisa'lip ejintek
Na'sik ni'n ntlukwaqn na matnekemk, wjit nikmaq aqq wjit
mawio'mi
aqq metu'kaqnik matntimk na ni'n wenmajita'suaqnm.

Ni'n Telui'tuksi Sma'knis.

Ki's sa'q, wejeyuksi'kek Pilui-l'nu'k, matnkipnik ta'nik
ketanuksi'ktpnik kulaman
wantaqo'ti ika'tew ta'n eyму'k.
Na'sik wel-kne'k maw-menuaqaluksiap 1752ek
Elui'tmasiap ma' elam wiswiknemuksiwk, Niskam asite'tkis tlian,
Njiknamk siaw-matnaqatipnik, jel mu pesikwetesulti'k
Kespu'tua'tiekip aqq wete'mektip wantaqo'ti aqq
wi'kmatultimkewey, na'sik
miamujpa ni'n weji-npmap.

Ni'n Telui'tuksi Sma'knis.

Mu pekije'nukip apaja'siap, atlika'siap pepkwijete'maqnn elmi-
paqtukewa'ql,
wije'wkik George Washington aqq kjiknaminaq Mali'sitaq
teli-l'ui'tmasultiekip Watertown ma' elam wsimkutowek
kisna wiswiknemuksiwek, ikatmekip ta'n Pastunkewa'kikewaqaq teli-
alsumsulti'tij,
mu alu'a'tiwekip

Iknmuksi'kip alsumsultinew, na nekmowey tela'matultiekip
Weji-npmap pemin'tultimkek kulaman kikmanaq msntaq Jay

Treaty

Ni'n Telui'tuksi Sma'knis.

Nepayap piamiw kaskimtlinaqnipunqekl
Na'sik apaji-mimaju'eyap kulaman kisi-apaja'sites matntimk,
naji-matneken Almantiewa'kik
Pemasukweyap sisku-iktuk Verdun, ta'n tett nemituap piluamu'k
matntimk
Telui'tmi'tip Amskwesewey Wksitqamuey Matntimk ...
Na'sik Ta'puewey Wksitqamuey Matntimk naji-me'ka'sikip
Wet-saputa'siap telkaqnik staqa sispa'sue'katik ta'n tett teluitmi'tij
Dieppe, tujiw
na'taqamitaiekip Normandy
Eymap na'te'l se'ya'tumkek Holland ... nasik etl-wutqataluksiap
apaqtuk.

Ni'n Telui'tuksi Sma'knis.

Na Ka'mnistaq pemi-wissuiknetmi'tij wksitqamu weja'tekemk
Qame'k mi'soqo Knekk Wjipenuk
L'nue'katim etek nmitkik maw-mussuatmap, mikwite'tmapn
wi'kupaltimkewe'l
eymanek espaqmikek Korea, tkeyiktuk etli-tnieyap tetuji
sespeta'si mita
telkimuksiekip "Tlpultik"
Tlia'j na kaqi-kiwto'qukuksiek, melki-ikatmekip ta'n
telpuku'ltiek, apatniknjik
pikwelik mawa'majik matnuksiekik. Na'sik ne'po'ksiap ke'sk
pemijikaptekeyanek.

Ni'n Telui'tuksi Sma'knis.

Ke'sk nutqweyanek me' l'pa'tu'sewianek, eykik telua'tipnik
na'qatpay,
Na'sik etl-kina'masianek sma'knisewimk Parris Island mu teli-
mtue'nukek staqa

etlkina'masianek Etlqatmumkewey Kina'matnewo 'kuo 'm.
Matnekeyap Vietnam aqq melki-klo'tmap Mi'kmawey
mkite'taqn aqq
elma'taqapnik nikmaq kepmitte'taqnmuew wejiaq
te'sijikji'nmuk kisimimaju'nikik.
Eymap Con-tien aqq Khesanh aqq matntimkek Hue/Phu Bai
Ke'sk elisinanek, kesiteluksi, pasik Niskam nutuip aqiemtim.
Ni'n Telui'tuksi Sma'knis.

Mukk mali-ksua'tup teli-alsumsultioq, winsit nekaw attikna'sit
elukwet.

Wesua'toq koqoey aqq siaw klo'tk, ma' apaji-iknmuluk koqoey
kisna tpi'ketuk, Mawio'mi sioqiatew tettuji ajkne'tew.

Matnekeyap wjit ketlewo'qnn aqq alsumsimk, mu wjit pasik
kinu ,katu wjit msit
wksitqamu.

Aqq wejinpmap wjit msit no'kmaq, mu eyktnuk ajki'k ksalsuti
staqa na, telimuksi.

Mikwite'mitoqsip te's Nipk ika'q, Set A'newimk, Mawio'mi'l
aqq

Pastunkewa'kik elta'mk

Niskam kjijitew wanta'suatmoq ta'n koqoey weji-npmap mita
pisu' npites.

Ni'n Telui'tuksi Sma'knis.

Will Basque was born in Shubenacadie March 8, 1944. His parents were Isaac and Elsie Charles Basque. He had 3 siblings, Brian, Marty and Beverly Basque.



Isaac and Elsie when they got married



Brian, Will and Beverly

When he was young they moved to the United States so that his parents could find work. He grew up in Boston and when he finished high school he joined the U.S. Marines. At that time there was a war in Vietnam and many young men went to war.



Will and Marty (Marcella)

He was around 20 years old when he first went to Vietnam. While he was in Vietnam he saw how



Will when he was in Vietnam

poor the people were and he felt sorry for the children. He said, "Vietnamese people were like Indians," so he had a hard time because he could not help them. He and his friends would write home to their families asking for books and various school supplies that they could give to the children.

Military policy states that when one person goes to war then the soul surviving brother will not have to go to war. So he decided to go on a second tour of duty to Vietnam so that his brother Brian wouldn't have to go. He didn't know that Brian had signed up as a paratrooper.



Brian, Isaac and Will

After finishing his second tour he returned to Boston. He found work as a truck driver. People kept asking him to run for president for the Boston Indian Council. He was elected president and he



Will working in Boston

laid off all the workers then he hired back those who had a serious interest in the Boston Indian Council. While he was in the United States he did a lot of work for native causes because the soldiers that he had fought with were now leaders that had high positions in the government. He worked on the old treaties.



Will at the Boston Indian Council

Will returned to Nova Scotia in 1976 and then he came to Eskasoni to visit his relatives who lived



Will, Catherine Paul, Rosie and Mary Bridget Paul

there. On one of his visits he met Rosie Paul. They got married in July 22, 1977 and settled in Eskasoni. They had four children;



Kristen, Bryan, Nicholas and Anne.



Will and the Irish

Will never forgot about how war affects children. He helped organize a visit by Irish children to Eskasoni. He said he wanted them to experience peace and freedom.

Will always cared about the veterans. Every Remembrance Day he and Rosie would go to



Waqmitkuk to visit the grave of Vincent Bernard. Vincent had been killed in Vietnam. Eventually he started taking care of

Remembrance Day ceremonies in Eskasoni. Will and Rosie would prepare a feast and provide gifts for the veterans. Will was also a part of the Mi'kmaq Grand Council representing the veterans. The Grand Council even sent him to go help with the organization of the Watertown Treaty re-enactment.



Grand Council at Watertown

Once Will couldn't sleep and he stayed up all night. When Rosie woke up in the morning Will showed her a poem that he had written about past, present and future veterans. Rosie liked it so much that she told Will it should be published. Right away they went to town to have it printed.

Will travelled to the United States and passed away on his way home on January 16, 1998.



Wilfred Charles Basque
March 8, 1944 - January 16, 1998

Sma'knis

By Will Basque

I have always kept returning ever since the day I was born
Each time your drum and circle called, my soul was ripped and
torn Forever as I picked up my lance, my quiver and my bow
The eagle soaring me on high would swoop down and drop me low
But it is my duty to fight for my people and for my nation
The test and trials of war are but my scared tribulations
I am called Sma'knis

In the days of probes and invasions by some other tribes
I fought off our enemies so that peace would come alive
Yet I was most needed later in a time called 1752
My promise to never surrender, Niskam made come true
As my Giganums fought on, never even blinking an eye
We won our peace and friendship but it was me who had to die
I am called Sma'knis

I returned in a generation with the echoes of your drumbeat
To march with George Washington, with my brothers, the Malecite
No retreat - no surrender was our promise at Watertown
We protected America's freedom, we never let them down
The guarantee of self-government was what we all agreed
But I was killed in action, so our people have the Jay Treaty
I am called Sma'knis

I slept for more generations, well over a hundred years
But came to life to return to war to fight in Germany
I slogged in mud at Verdun where I saw a new kind of war
They called it World War I but World War II was even more
I went through hell in a place called Dieppe to land at Normandy
I was there to liberate Holland but my body was buried at sea
I am called Sma'knis

As the communist world swept over from Europe to the Far East
My reserve back home is what I missed, I hungered for your feast
High on a hill in Korea while freezing in the lonely cold
I sweated in deep desperation for our orders were "to hold"
Although completely surrounded, we held our position's goal
Staving out human wave attacks but I was killed while on patrol
I am called Sma'knis

While as a youth still in my teens, some said I was a fool
But boot camp at Parris Island was nothing to residential school
I fought in the jungles of Vietnam and kept my Mi'kmaq pride
And brought home my people's honor through the men I kept alive
I was there at Con-Tien and Khesanh, in the battle of Hue/Phu-Bai
But as I laid fatally wounded, only Niskam heard my cry
I am called Sma'knis

Don't take your freedom for granted, the Trickster is always at
work
He'll take and keep, not give and share, the circle would die from
hurt

I fought for rights and freedom, not just ours but the world's
And laid down my life for my fellow man, "no greater love" I'm
told

Remember me each summer at mission, pow wows and Maine
For Niskam knows if you forget my death, then I have died in vain
I am called Sma'knis