Joe’s Article: nimikwenimaa Nishiimeban

This Month I would like to remember my brother that passed away last month. Brother, on your obit they had you under 70 but they also say you were born in 1946, who would’ve every thought you and I would’ve seen 77 years together? You remember that time that Elmer chased us around with that snake when we were about 6 or 7? And where I grabbed him and told him “If you ever do that again I’ll beat that crap outta you”? I remember there was even a normal pow-wow where we didn’t have any regalia but we still went out and dances the whole pow-wow. I think we were about 16 or 17 and somehow you and I decided that we should just get out there and dance. After the it was over, we both talked about if people were worried that we weren’t in regalia. Back in the days when we could just get into the arena and dance. Also, after that pow-wow, I remember the concerned look on your face when I told you that I was going to Vietnam, and it took me about 20 minutes to a half hour to convince you that I was gonna be okay. And even after coming home from the Army when you picked me up at MSP. I remember the look of happiness and joy when you saw me get off the airplane, and it’s meant so much to me that you worried and cared about the dangers and worries of what I was gonna face overseas.

I know that most people probably didn’t know who you were since you lived most of your life in Fergus falls working for Coca-Cola. Then moving to the Mora area where then your health declined. Proud of you that you always held your own, through working all of your life. I remember when my oldest was born, I came up to Mille Lacs with some of the people that I worked with from the V.A to ice fish at the marina. We had good luck getting Walleyes that day, you were spending time with Rita helping with everything before taking the bus to Fergus Falls the next day. I came back from Mille Lacs late, I walked in the door and Rita told me “I think I need to go to the hospital” then you looked at me too “I think she needs to go too” with a look of worry on your face. Sure, enough not long after we got to the hospital then he was born.

And even when you came to our family dinners, and gatherings with the fun we’d have as a family. Creating laughs, memories that I think of all the time. But I still can’t believe how long you and I were here together; I don’t know how many siblings can relate to that. I am not sure how long I’ll be around here yet but when I leave here, if you and Elmer are planning on a snake homecoming, I’ll beat you both up so think about that (haha). I am sure that you’re happy with our relatives over there, I think about those to who aren’t here anymore often. Don’t worry though because I am still surrounded by people that I love and enjoy, but I want to thank you for showing me how to be a brother. Weweni Nishiime.