



California State Park Rangers Association  
Honorary Ranger Nomination

February 8, 2024

Re: Honorary Ranger Candidate: Dr. Walter J. Lara SR.

Dear Honorary Ranger Nomination Committee Members,

This letter is in support of the nomination of Walter J. Lara SR. for the California State Park Ranger Association (CSPRA), Honorary Ranger Award.

Support of this nomination is the result of working with, learning from, and of, Dr. Lara in my capacity as the District Superintendent for North Coast Redwoods District (22 State Parks in three counties), California State Parks.

Over the last eight years I have observed, benefitted from and become acquainted with Dr. Lara's lifetime of work that has influenced generations of scholars, leaders and community members across social, cultural, political and governmental spheres. Dr. Lara's work for Indigenous revitalization through, research, practice and education have influenced at least two subsequent generations of educators and scholars throughout California. Dr. Lara's reach has extended across the nation and the world, (Dr. Lara has lectured in New Zealand, Japan and most recently to an audience of over 100 Indigenous representatives from all over the globe, gathered at Sumeg Village (at Sue-meg State Park), with special emphasis across Indigenous ancestral lands on the North Coast of California.

Dr. Lara is 89 years old and has been a recipient and "keeper of knowledge" throughout his entire life. Dr. Lara has been a seminal influence in the rediscovery and revitalization of Yurok cultural worldview and ceremonial practice on the North Coast of California for over 50 years. Dr. Lara has influenced how governments address mortuary items and protection of indigenous village sites through local work (Northwest Indian Cemetery Protection Association, 1970-1989) that influenced national policy promulgated as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Dr. Lara, a lifelong learner, educator, and mentor and has touched thousands of lives through his transformational work with Indigenous people throughout California, the United States and the world.

I am governmental official for the State of California with broad experience across the California State Park System, I am using this lens to appreciate Mr. Lara's influence, knowledge, and leadership in teaching of Indigenous worldview and cultural practices through his work at Sue-meg State Parks', Sumeg Village.

Mr. Lara worked through the State Park bureaucracy with poise and professionalism in planning, developing and implementing the creation of a Yurok demonstration village (Sumeg). Sumeg is now a place of contemporary ceremonial practice, educational tool for Indigenous community members, as well as a classroom for cultural healing and

understanding of diverse worldviews through education for millions of international, national and California visitors and residents.

Dr. Lara was the master builder of Sumeg village. He worked with elders in developing his understanding of the significance of nuanced techniques used in Yurok construction as well as epistemology of Yurok worldview through manipulation of materials used in construction of Sumeg village. Dr. Lara, as well as other Indigenous ceremonial leads use Sumeg for the contemporary practice of ceremony and welcome visitors from around the world to observe them in practice. Dr. Lara has mentored and trained two generations of Indigenous people in traditional ceremonial practice and many of them now practice as ceremonial leads. In addition to managing the build out of Sumeg Dr. Lara involved Indigenous people from throughout the state to participate in the creation of, and ongoing maintenance of the structures and grounds of the village using traditional materials and techniques. Dr. Lara continues to educate tribal and state sponsored youth in these techniques as well as the Indigenous worldview associated with them.

Dr. Lara has been instrumental in influencing how Sumeg Village is utilized and interpreted today. Dr. Lara guided North Coast Redwoods District staff in understanding the importance of hiring Indigenous interpreters who deliver educational materials to school groups throughout California with Parks' Online Resources for Teachers and Student (PORTS) and with broader national and international audiences through electronic medium with authentic voices discussing accurate historical and contemporary events from an Indigenous perspective. Sumeg is the only place in the State Park System where Indigenous Interpreters are delivering this type of educational programming on a weekly basis.

Dr. Lara worked with state officials within California State Parks, National Parks and regulatory agencies, The Yurok Tribal government and Yurok community leads and families to reintroduce "Jump Dance" (Yurok world renewal ceremony) at Cha-pek-w (Village site on Stone Lagoon within Humboldt Lagoons State Park) in 2012 after more than an 80-year hiatus. This 10-day ceremony for world renewal continues to occur every two years and has done much to bring healing and relationship building within and between Indigenous families and governmental organizations. This significant Yurok ceremonial practice welcomes an international audience of visitors to participate through observation.

Dr. Lara is a pillar of Yurok society. The Yurok Tribe is the largest tribe in California with over 6300 members. He continues to serve on local, state and national committees, continues to educate youth in ceremony and traditional indigenous lifeways, advise tribal and governmental leaders in best practices for the benefit of all peoples and has been a mentor and educator to leaders and scholars within and outside of Indigenous communities.

I encourage CSPRA to recognize Dr. Lara as an Honorary Ranger for his lifetime of achievement in support of the CSPRA and California Department of Parks missions. Over time and under changing conditions Dr. Lara he has been a stalwart for supporting Indigenous practices on public lands, working with government entities and has been the catalyst for many agreements between Indigenous Tribes and the North Coast Redwoods District.

This short letter of recommendation does not begin to encompass the magnitude or significance of the larger body of work that Dr. Lara has been and continues to be involved in throughout his lifetime (fire and forestry practices). The acknowledgements iterated above are but a sprinkling of his beneficial influence on California State Parks in its work for inclusion and understanding of diverse worldviews that have been incorporated into educational opportunities for California State Parks on the North Coast of California.

Dr. Lara's influence and teaching are wide ranging and widespread, State Park staff and visitors that have the opportunity to interact with Dr. Lara or his students are forever enriched.

Please do not to contact me with any additional inquiries.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victor Bjelajac', written over a large, stylized 'tY'.

*Victor Bjelajac*  
*District Superintendent*  
*California State Parks/North Coast Redwoods*  
*victor.bielajac@parks.ca.gov*  
*Mobile: 1.707.407.7484*

**Biographical Information/Curriculum Vitae**

Walter James Lara Sr., Yurok tribal member and the father to seven living children, was brought into the world in 1935 the by his Aunt Eunice in Orick, California. He was brought up by his grandparents, Jim and Josie Marks. In the early mornings, due to the darkness and the threat of mountain lions and other wild animals, his grandfather occasionally accompanied Walter on his two-mile walk to the "Little Red School House" at Stone Lagoon where he attended school. The one room school had an enrollment of nine children, 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade. During these walks, many lessons of the loss of a way of life, the survival, and challenges of the Yurok people were shared. His grandparents were both Yurok first language speakers and held the culture and traditions of an ancient people close to their hearts. This was the foundation of the man that held a deep desire to make a better world for his people as expressed in Resolution No. 325-05-16 (cited below) and in his vitae of selected activities (attached).

*California 'Rural Indian Health Board*

Resolution No. 325-05-16

WHEREAS, Walt Lara Sr. is a respected spiritual leader and wisdom keeper of the Yurok Tribal people and recognized as a Native cultural and political luminary among Tribal Nations throughout the State of California. Walt was raised by his grandparents, and he loved caring for them; and

WHEREAS, at an early age, he was responsible for fishing, gathering, cutting wood, and yard work. He not only took care of his grandparents, but also their friends. When Walt became a young man, elders had such trust and confidence in him that they selected him to lead ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Walt has devoted his life to fulfilling the wishes of his elders and has dedicated his life to the renaissance of Earth Healing and Earth Renewing Ceremonies and the revitalization of spiritual practices and lifeways of the Yurok People by serving as a Yurok Elder, Cultural and Religious leader, Regalia Caretaker, Traditional Yurok House Master Builder, Ceremonial Dance Leader; and

WHEREAS, he served as Field First Sergeant Army Airborne Unassigned- 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Regimental Combat Team, He is the Co-founder of the Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association (NICPA). Walt was the co founder and subsequent director of NICPA. NICPA was instrumental in the first repatriation of Yurok human remains and artifacts and the passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act in 1978; and

WHEREAS, he is the former chairman of the Inter-Tribal Council of California (ITCC). Walt spent seven years as the Area I Director and two consecutive terms as the State-wide Chairperson; and

WHEREAS, Walt served as a Commissioner of the Native American Heritage Commission of California. Walt was a Commissioner appointed by Governor Jerry Brown. The Commission, through the Office of the State's Attorney was a key litigant in the infamous landmark case, Lyng v. The Northwest Cemetery Protective Association (NICPA), an American Indian religious

Walter J. Lara Sr. Biographical Information/Curriculum Vitae

freedom case with national precedence. The Heritage Commission, working with California Tribal Nations, was instrumental in the repatriation of human remains and funerary items that were warehoused with the State Park Department. The Commission also established statutory protection to prevent continued looting and desecration of graves and ceremonial sites; and

WHEREAS, he has served as chairman, Northern California Indian Development Council, chairman of the Klamath River Wildlife and Conservation Corp., leader during the Klamath River Fish Wars, member of the Yurok Tribe's Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Commission, Board Member of the Smithsonian Repatriation Review Board, author of the Blacksnake's Corner in Smoke Signals Fire Management Magazine, chairman of California Indian Forest and Fire Management Council, member of the California Division of Forestry Indian Advisory Council, as well as member of the CRIHB Traditional Indian Health Committee; and

WHEREAS, while he served on each of these boards, Walt worked full-time and fathered 8 children. Walt retired last year, at 80 years old, from the Forestry Department in the Yurok Tribe. The biggest societal change that Walt has seen over the years is the revitalization of language, ceremony, and cultures; and

WHEREAS, Walt often talks about "being a good ancestor" and expresses his joy in the future leaders that he has encountered. Throughout the years, he has trained many young people. Today, it makes his heart happy to see their children growing up with the revitalization of ceremony as a norm: and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CALIFORNIA RURAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD INC. AND THE TRADITIONAL INDIAN HEALTH COMMITTEE, that we honor Walt Lara, Sr. for his lifelong commitment to uphold the cultures, values, and traditional ways of California Indians.

**Adopted: May 19, 2016**

WALTERJ. LARA SR  
P.O Box483  
Hoopa, CA 95546

### Selected Employment

1995-2015 Assistant Forester, Yurok Tribal Forestry Department  
The last two decades of his working career, when many of his colleagues retired, Walt took his lifetime of woods work experience to the Yurok Tribal Forest Program where he served as a Forester and was instrumental in all aspects of timber sale layout and design, implementation, and administration. From prescribing the silvicultural option (determining the percentage of overstory removal) to road and landing location and design, establishing late seral stage (old-growth) preservation islands for future benefit and use, to spending as long as it took in the field to insure that all policies, regulations, and goals were strictly met when actual marking of trees to be removed to providing daily oversight while all logging related activities were underway, to conducting random check scales of log loads to make sure that the Tribe received the maximum value for such an important and culturally significant resource.

### Service

#### *Selected Organizations*

2019-2020 Consultant, Yurok Tribal Education Department  
Provides cultural training and mentorship to tribal youth to enhance their self-efficacy, community involvement, and college and career readiness.

2018-2020 Advisory Board Member, IPP Grant, Mental Health Prevention and Early Suicide Intervention through the Stick Game/Flower Dance, Principal Investigators- Virgil Moorehead, Ph.D and Cutcha Risling Baldy, Ph.D  
Cultural consultant to the stick game and revitalization of the flower dance (coming of age ceremony) and mentor to Indigenous youth on traditional means of respect and culture as prevention. <https://twofeathers-nafs.org/programs/youth-wellness/>

2015-2020 Cultural Advisory Committee, Yurok Tribe  
There are nearly 6,000 members of the Yurok Tribe and less than a dozen advisors on the cultural committee. Projects involving culture require consultation of this committee.

2015-2020 Heritage Consultant, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Communicates with the U.S. Forest Service and tribe to protect and preserve ancient landmarks of indigenous peoples.

2015-2020 Forestry Advisory Board Member, Yurok Tribe

2012-2020 Repatriation Review Committee Member, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History  
Representative of the Pacific Western Area  
<http://pji.si.edu/research/anthropology/programs/r:repatriation-office/repatriation-review-committee/members/walt-lara>

2012-2020 Cultural Mentor, Red Deer Consulting

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- 2000-2020 Consultant to numerous youth camps, community groups, and agencies who serve Indigenous children and families.  
Traditional Health Board Member, California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB)  
CRIHB is committed to the needs and interests that elevate and promote the health status and social conditions of the Indigenous people of California by providing advocacy, shared resources, training and technical assistance.
- 1999-2020 Member, Native American Graves Protections and Repatriation Act Committee (NAGPRA), Yurok Tribe  
The Yurok tribes NAGPRA committee was instrumental in the retrieval of hundreds of sacred items and associated grave goods.  
[https://www.indianz.com/News/2010/08/13/yurok\\_tribe\\_welcomes\\_repatriation.asp](https://www.indianz.com/News/2010/08/13/yurok_tribe_welcomes_repatriation.asp)
- 2018-2019 Coordinator, Ka'm-t'em Youth Photography and Documentation Project (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) <https://kamtem-indigenousknowledge.com/>
- 2013-2015 Chair, California Indian Forest and Fire Management Council (CIFFMC)  
A non-profit organization established to integrate wildland fire management with forest resource management.
- 2010-2015 Member, California State Commission on Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)
- 2010-2015 Member, California Division of Forestry Indian Advisory Council
- 2000-2014 Member, Intertribal Timber Council of California
- 2005 Member, California Repatriation Oversight Commission (ROC)  
This commission was authorized by California NAGPRA, Senate Bill 978
- 1991-2004 Member, Sumeg Patrick's Point Lagoons Interpretive Association (SPPLIA)
- 2003 Protecting Indigenous Rights, World Indigenous People's Cultural Exchange, Hokkaido, Japan
- 2001 Maori Cultural Exchange, New Zealand
- 1970-1989 Co-Founder & Chair, Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association (NICPA)  
NICPA was instrumental in the first repatriation of Yurok human remains and artifacts and the passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978.
- 1983-1985 Chair, Requa Indian Community Association (RICA)  
Instrumental in communication with the Secretary of Interior, Cecil Andrus during the Fish Wars on the Klamath River.
- 1983-1985 Co-founder and Chair, Klamath River Wildlife Conservation Association  
The first organization to do a fish enhancement project on the Klamath River in conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Development Council.
- 1976-1983 Commissioner (appointed by Governor Jerry Brown), Native American Heritage Commission of California- served under two governors- Governor Brown and Governor Deukmejian

- The Commission, through the Office of the State's Attorney was a key litigant in the infamous landmark case, *Lyng v. NIPCA*, an American Indian religious freedom case with national precedence.
- 1974-1978 Chair, Tri-County (now referred to as the Northern California Indian Development Council- NCIDC)  
This organization aided in strengthening economic development of tribes in northern California.
- 1973-1979 Chair, Inter-Tribal Council of California (ITCC)- 2 terms  
ITCC was integral in the planning and preparation of the establishment of United Indian Health Services and many other similar projects.
- 1973-1979 Area I Director, Inter-Tribal Council of California  
ITCC was comprised of over 100 tribes and organizations. ITCC helped to advance legislature initiatives and provided needed services to California Native communities.
- 1974-1977 Board Member, Indian Action Council
- 1952-1955 U.S. Army Airborne  
Served as a platoon sergeant, acting field first sergeant, and jump master paratrooper trainer.

*Selected Community Contributions*

- 2020 Mentor, Ka'm-t'em Video Production Youth Project (HSU students)
- 2019-2020 Co-coordinator, Ka'm-t'em: Next Steps for K-12 Educators Course, Humboldt State University
- 1970-2020 Master Builder, Traditional Redwood Plank Houses  
Construction and Reconstruction of Traditional Yurok Villages, Dance Houses, and Living Quarters at the Villages of Requa, Pecwan, Wokwel, Sumeg, Coquelle, Minot, and the Weitchpec Traditional Wellness Center
- 1970-2015 Canoe Building Preservation  
Assistant to Dewey George, Master Canoe Builder in the 1970's, Facilitator between the Six Rivers National Forest, California State Parks, Yurok Tribal Forestry, and Lumber Mills for construction of canoes and mentorship programs in the 2000's
- 1970-2012 Revitalization of Ceremony  
Meylee (Ceremony for the healing of a sick child or elder) at the villages of Requa, Wokwel, Weitchpec, Sumeg  
Woneek Weleygo (Ceremony for the balance of humans and the healing of the world) at the villages of Chapekw, Pecwan and Table Bluff for the Wiyot Tribe  
Sraach Apureway (Ceremony for World Renewal) at the village of Weitchpec  
Chpurowok (A women's coming of age transition ceremony) at the village of Sumeg  
The revitalization of each ceremony at each village involved pulling people together and training people from those villages. Several years were dedicated to the revitalization of each ceremony.



## Scholarly Activities

### Selected Publications

- 2019 Lara-Cooper, K. & **Lara, W.** (Eds.) (2019). *Ka'mte'm: A Journey toward Healing*. Temecula, Ca: Great Oak Press.
- 2019 **Lara, W.** & Lara-Cooper, K. (2019). Across the Lagoon: The Inspiration behind the Northwest Indian Cemetery Protection Association (NICPA). In K. Lara-Cooper and W. Lara (Eds.), *Ka 'mte'm: A Journey Toward Healing* (pp. 151-160). Temecula, CA: Great Oak Press.
- 2019 **Lara, W.** & Lara-Cooper, K. (2019). Fish Wars on the Klamath River. In K. Lara-Cooper and W. Lara (Eds.), *Ka 'mte 'm: A Journey Toward Healing* (pp. 213-228). Temecula, CA: Great Oak Press.
- 2019 **Lara, W.** (2019). Closing Statement. In K. Lara-Cooper and W. Lara (Eds.), *Ka'mte'm: A Journey Toward Healing* (pp. 311-314). Temecula, CA: Great Oak Press.
- 2004-2009 **Lara, W.** *Smoke Signals-Blacksnake's Corner*, a quarterly journal produced by National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), Walt authored the *Blacksnake's Corner* each quarter

### Selected Intellectual Contributions

- 2020 *Ka 'm-t 'em Indigenous Knowledge*, Interview with Joelle Montes, Joseph Montes, Princess Colegrove, 30-minute film.
- 2020 *It Takes our Purpose: How the Decline of Chinook Salmon Threatens the Yurok Tribe*, Interview with Eva Cord!, published article
- 2019 *Traditional Sweat Lodge: Building a Place for Cultural Healing*, Wild Rivers Community Foundation, published article
- 2019 *Lyng v NICPA: Gasquet-Orleans Road*, Interview with Maiya Rainer, Humboldt County History Day First Place Award
- 2018 *Lifting the Redwood Curtain*, Interview with Jeff Coxen and Hunter Blackwell, Sundance Film Festival, full-length documentary film.
- 2017 *Human Trafficking in Humboldt County*, Interview with CNN, documentary film
- 2017 *Advocacy and Indigenous Resistance*, Interview with Dr. Elise Boxer, Wicaso Sa Review
- 2016 *We are Auth*, Interview with Red Deer Consulting, 73-minute film.
- 2016 *Traditional Ecological Knowledge*, Dissemination Interview with Seatha Ramos, University of Arizona
- 2011 *Grave Matters: Excavating California's Buried Past*, (Heyday Books), Interview with Tony Platt (book author)
- 2009 *Concepts of Giftedness*, Dissertation Interview with Kishan Lara, Arizona State University
- 2008 *Abalone Tales: Collaborative Explorations of Sovereignty and Identity in Native California* (Duke University Press), Interview with Les Field (book author)
- 2004 Statement, Salmon Preservation and Dam Removal, Annual General Stockholders' Meeting, Scottish Power, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 1995 *Natives of the Golden State: The California Indians* (Indian Historian Press). Interview by Rupert Cosio (book author)

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- 1991 *In Our Defense: The Bill of Rights in Action* (HarperCollins Publishers). Interview with Caroline Kennedy and Ellen Alderman (book authors)
- 1989 Statement, American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments of 1989, Washington, DC
- 1988 Statement, Oversight Hearing on Hoopa-Yurok Indian Reservation, Committee on Indian Affairs, United States Senate, Sacramento, CA

*Selected Professional Development*

- 2019 Community Talk on Mental Health, Teresa Lafromboise, Ph.D (2 hours)
- 2019 Sexual Violence of Indigenous Women, Sara Deer, Ph.D (8 hours)
- 2018 Indigenous Healing Psychology: Honoring the Wisdom of the First Peoples, Richard Katz, Ph.D (4 hours)
- 2018 From Mindfulness to Heartfulness: Transforming Self and Society with Compassion, Stephen Murphy-Shigematsu, Ed.D (4 hours)
- 2018 Community Engaged Research with Indigenous Populations, Bonnie Duran, Ph.D (4 hours)
- 2018 Rethinking Mental Health Service for American Indian Communities: Postcolonial Perspectives and Possibilities, Joseph P. Gone (4 hours)
- 2018 Health of the Environment, Health of the People Conference, United Indian Health Services and Bear River Rancheria (8 hours)

**Educational Contributions**

*Selected Presentations*

- 2020 *Indigenous Research Methodologies*, Ka'm-t'ern Speaker Series, Humboldt State University and the Yurok Tribe
- 2020 *Ka 'm-t'em: Testimonial Justice*, Career and College Readiness, Yurok Tribe
- 2020 *Chpurowok: Healing through the Revitalization of Women's Transitioning Ceremonies*, Wellness Speaker Series, Yurok Tribe Social Services
- 2020 *The History and Significance of the Stick Game*, Two Feathers Native American Family Services
- 2019 *Next Steps to Healing from Intergenerational Trauma and On-going Oppression*, California Indian Rural Health Board, Traditional Health Conference
- 2019 *California History*, History Class, Hoopa High School
- 2019 *Healing through Indigenous Knowledge*, Keep the Home Fires Burning International Conference
- 2019 *Indigenous Resiliency through Ceremony*, Heart of Her Nations International Conference
- 2009-2019 Cultural Sensitivity Trainings, Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Service, Child Welfare Services
- 2009-2019 Redwood Dugout Canoe Paddling, Training for Humboldt and Del Norte County youth through the Yurok Tribe, Big Lagoon Rancheria, Trinidad Rancheria, Red Deer Consulting
- 2018 *Ka 'mte 'm Weno 'monekw: Struggle, Resistance, and Healing*, California Indian Conference at Humboldt State University
- 2018 *Policy & Advocacy*, Child Development Department, Humboldt State University
- 2017 *A Journey Toward Healing in Northern California*, American Indian Studies

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- 2017 Association Conference, New Mexico State University  
*Rites of Passage of Indigenous Youth*, California Indian Rural Health Board,  
Traditional Health Conference
- 2017 Language and Cultural Awareness, United Indian Health Services Workshop
- 2015 Repatriation, Del Norte Native American Club, UC Berkeley
- 2015 *A Guide to Making Positive Choices*, Youth Prevention Maygaytolhkwe Camp,  
United Indian Health Services
- 2010-2014 *Forest Management*, Department of Forestry & Wildland Resources, Humboldt  
State University
- 2014 *Cultural Sensitivity and Traditional Ecological Knowledge*, California State Parks
- 2013 *Environmental Justice*, Native American Studies Department, Humboldt State  
University
- 2011 *Weaving Wellness in Native Communities: Family and Child-Rearing Practices*,  
Community Health and Wellness Conference, Northern California Indian  
Development Council (NCIDC)
- 2009 *Advocacy in Northwest California*, Decolonization Methods, American Indian  
Studies Department, Arizona State University
- 2008 Welcome Address, National Association of Bilingual Education, San Francisco,  
CA
- 2006 Welcome Address, Indigenous Education SIG, American Educational Research  
Association, San Francisco, CA
- 2003 *Cultural Landscapes*, National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation  
Officers (NATHPO)
- 2003 *California Cultural Resources*, Indian Law Program, Harvard University
- 1999-2004 *Native American Art of the Northcoast*, Art Department, Humboldt State  
University

**Selected Awards**

- 2020 Elder of the Year, California Rural Indian Health Board
- 2019 Traditions Bearer for Bio Cultural Diversity Fellow, Seventh Generation for  
Indigenous Peoples- International Award
- 2016 Elder of the Year, Traditional Indian Health Board
- 2016 Resolution No. 325-05-16 California Rural Indian Health Board Inc.
- 2014 Employee of the Year, Yurok Tribe  
Retired from the Yurok Tribe's Forestry Department as an Assistant  
Forester after 20 years in 2015 at 80 years old
- 2012 Elder of the Year, California Indian Education Association
- 2011 California Indian Heritage Preservation Award, Society for California  
Archaeology