

My Name is Merle Kirk. I am Wasq'u-Warm Springs, Cayuse, Yakama, Navajo tribes and enrolled with the Warm Springs reservation. I am speaking on behalf of my two sisters; (my first cousin whom lived with us & raised as a sister)Lisa Briseño Missing since August 1997 by her boyfriend Armondo Perez & Mavis Mayanne Kirk who was murdered by her boyfriend Leander G. Williams Jr. December 16, 2009.

The investigation of Lisa Briseño seems as if she did not matter enough to have a thorough investigation due to her past life choices. I know for a fact at the time of her disappearance she was in recovery and staying home in Bend, OR. The day I found out she was missing was in August at my dad's home in Warm Springs, OR and Armondo came to my dad's house asking if I seen her. He was acting very nervous and had a cloth bandage with he said was a burn, who puts a cloth bandage on a burn. I am glad he never hurt me as I was the only one home. I also was expecting my first child. Lisa was so excited and for sure would have been there with me. She never came back, 21 years I am still waiting for a blessed day she returns. It was hard to see my dad keep getting the let down from the investigators about not much they can do for her missing. My dad done the best he could to help get the news out about her missing, records to the FBI or at Portland.

December 16, 2009

My sister Mavis Mayanne Kirk was hit by a car by her emotional abuser boyfriend Leander Williams Jr. He only served a few months tribal jail time. No manslaughter, no law enforced of automatic DUII for refusing a breathalyzer. He said an accident...when time of his interview he remained silent. He is a free man who broke every bone in my sister's body and ran over her twice. FBI easily closed the case and the FBI colleagues on the reservation easily followed. At the time of her death, she left behind a 3month old son, and a 14 month old daughter. Sad the way politics had a part to not have any of this happening on the news and make as if she was not important and not matter. Also sad the dad is free man with no conscience of his actions and tribe gave custody to raise them.

I am a MMIW advocate who been passing out red ribbons for awareness in the Warm Springs community since 2010. if I can I post MADD/MMIW ribbons on the stop signs on the death date of my sister in December. Not a lot of people do this type of awareness. It is also sad to know that if a non native is missing all the alerts are out in the news, phones, newspapers. A lot of non natives have no idea what is MMIW. I do my best to educate and share awareness on Facebook in the community, walks, parades. I can only honor my sisters and let it be known they are not forgotten.

Both of my sisters matter and both of their missing and death are hard to deal with on a daily basis. Praying everyday Lisa to return home & both of them get justice. Thank you for your time- Merle Kirk