



MHA Women's History Month 2019



Marilyn "Tootsie" Jacobs

Marilyn "Tootsie" Jacobs was born in Richardton, ND to Loretta Eagle and Eugene Jacobs on November 4, 1954.

Marilyn is a granddaughter of the late Martina Eagle Ross and Ana Crows Heart Eagle. She was raised on the Fort Berthold Indian reservation, attended elementary school in Twin Buttes, graduated from Halliday Public High School, went on to receive her AA degree in Early Childhood Education from the Fort Berthold Community College and her BA Degree in Early Childhood from the University of Mary. Marilyn had five

sons, four being in her Head Start classroom as well as her granddaughter and many, many other students that have gone through her classroom in the 40 years that she's been a Head Start Teacher. This is her story:

"I grew up in a household of nine siblings with my mother and father, and grandmother, Anna Crows Heart Eagle, who spoke the Hidatsa language to all the children in the household and when her friends visited the home, she spoke the Mandan language. Grandma Annie taught me many things about the Hidatsa/Mandan ways of life, telling us cultural stories in the evening from both sides of the tribes. From my grandmother I learned how to plant a garden, care for it, and harvest it. I helped her dry meat, corn, and berries to make pemmican and cornballs, she canned many things from the garden as well as berries picked. Many evenings I would cut the diamonds for the star quilts she made. In my years of growing up around her I always admired her ways of teaching and thought that when I grew up that I wanted to teach others as she did. My grandmother was an inspiration to me, as well as a couple of my teachers in school and led the way to me wanting to be a teacher.

I know I have chosen a rewarding and promising career path and hope that I have made a lifelong impression on countless young lives. I was taught that our children are 'Special' and 'Sacred', leaders for the future, they rely on the guidance of good teachings to help them adapt and grow into responsible, respectful, intellectual, curious, human beings!"