

About Alice Bigpond Roach

Alice Bigpond Roach, from the Yuchi Tribe of Oklahoma, was born in Mounds, Oklahoma to Albert and Nellie Cooper Bigpond in 1928. She married Delius Roach in 1948 and they had three sons, Chuck, Damon, and Kevin. She was of Methodist faith and a member of Trinity Methodist Church in Lincoln.

Alice was the Director of Employment and Training for the Lincoln Indian Center. She also served on their Board of Directors and was Executive Director of the Center from 1981-82. She was a member of the Private Industry Council, Executive and Strategic Planning Committees for the Community Human Services Planning Council, Lincoln Action Program Board of Directors, Nebraska Job Training Council, Nebraska Commission for National and Community Service, and National Advisory Council for Native American Employment and Training. Alice served as co-chair of the National Indian Adult Education Association, and president of the Nebraska Indian Education Association.

Alice served as the Chairperson of the National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference (NINAETC) held in San Diego, California in 1992. The Participant Awards Luncheon exists today due to Alice's tenacity during a NINAETC Planning Committee meeting for the 1989 NINAETC in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Alice felt that our work in the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration centered on building a strong Native American workforce and we should recognize the individuals in our programs. After a healthy debate, the Committee agreed to incorporate the Participant Recognition.

If there was a definition in the dictionary for "Classy Lady," Alice Bigpond Roach would be listed. Alice also fulfilled a motherly role for a number of our Indian and Native American Grantee directors.

Alice passed away on May 21, 1995 in her home surrounded by family and several close friends.

