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**SQUAMISH NATION NETWORK**

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**people & events**

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> [EULOGY](#) | Wendy John Speaks at the Memorial Service

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**Chief Joseph (Joe) William Mathias**  
**November 12, 1943 — March 10, 2000**

## **Companion Poem to the Wendy John Eulogy by Ed John**

Salish Chief,

In the darkest hour of the night  
when on one looked death,  
that thief and coward  
silently took your breath  
drums in the big house  
fall silent  
red paints, black paints  
spirit dancers weep  
pink spring blossoms  
softly grace the east sun  
rising  
seeking new life  
in the

Salish

Sky high

above an eagle gently lifts

bearing messages to the Creator above  
Seagull

the protector  
watches with careful eyes  
bow-legged kid  
from the other side of the track  
your words soar  
dancing, echoing through the great halls of time  
a million points of light  
touch the recesses  
of dark corners in the universe  
messages true & clear, the living tree

Salish

forest, not a street  
brilliant light passing  
look the thief, coward in the eye  
be in peace  
your mortality before us  
we hold you up  
on wings of song and prayer  
Rejoice,

with the

quiet ones  
the Ancestors  
on the other side`

Edward John

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