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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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