

Warren “Rudy” Clements (June 10, 1936 – December 28, 2005) was a respected leader of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, remembered for his lifelong dedication to cultural preservation, community service, and economic development. Born on the Warm Springs Reservation, he was a direct descendant of the historic Chief Sta-xo-thali of the Lower Deschutes Band. Clements was among the tribe’s earliest college graduates, earning a degree in elementary education from Eastern Oregon College in 1962, and went on to build a career spanning education, tribal administration, and leadership.



Warren “Rudy” Clements
Photo: © The Leo Company, LLC

Over more than three decades of service, Clements held numerous key roles, including municipal manager, director of employee development, and the first director of the Warm Springs Community Center. He later became a central figure in tribal economic initiatives, serving as chairman of the Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino and leading efforts to expand gaming operations into the Columbia River Gorge, including the proposed Cascade Locks casino project. Known for his ability to bridge the traditional and business worlds, he played a critical role in negotiations with state and regional partners, helping build relationships that strengthened cooperation between tribal and non-tribal communities.

Deeply rooted in his culture, Clements practiced the Washat religion and was an active member of the Simnasho Longhouse community. He was widely recognized as a cultural and spiritual leader, committed to preserving tribal traditions, sovereignty, and treaty rights. He also contributed to cultural education through his work with youth, dance groups, and drumming circles, and served as the first chairman of the Museum at Warm Springs board, promoting cultural tourism and education.

Clements was remembered by colleagues and community members as a gentle, generous, and unifying presence—someone who consistently placed the well-being of others above his own. Tribal leaders and regional officials alike described him as a bridge-builder who brought people together, often diffusing conflict and fostering cooperation. His leadership helped shape long-term economic opportunities for Warm Springs, while his cultural guidance strengthened identity and continuity within the community.

With the partnership and support of his wife, Annabelle “Anna” Clements, as well as extended family and community members, Clements worked to make things happen with a good heart and a desire for community prosperity through partnerships, remaining grounded with cultural strength.