

**Andy Joseph Jr.:** When my dad, he was relocated to Portland and he went to college, he got an engineering degree. And he was working in the shipyard and then this Millwright job came up at Port Gamble at the sawmill so he took that job. And then after a few years, he got a job at the Keyport in Bangor so we lived here until I was eight years old. We moved home. The Grand Coulee Dam Third Powerhouse Project was starting. He got working and then my grandma Lucy Covington asked him to run for council. [chuckles]

**Interviewer:** She was really instrumental in getting everybody doing stuff.

**Andy:** Yes. We went to the meetings. There was meetings in the mountains and the council that was there, the majority of them didn't want us having meetings in any of the buildings that they were at. It was a covert operation. We had meetings in the mountains and big potlucks and Grandma Lucy went to each district and looked for people to run for council. That year, she asked Mel Tonasket to run and she asked my dad to run and several others.

We had these bumper stickers, these, "Stop Termination," and we were at her house. And the ladies had to use a little tech machine then and type out all those letters. Anyway, we were stuffing envelopes and sealing them, putting stamps on them as kids. Anyway, she told me, "You got to learn how to do this, Junior, because someday you're going to have to do it for yourself." I was just eight years old then and nine years old. I didn't know, didn't really think anything about it. 16 or 17 years ago, that's what I was doing, [chuckles] stuffing my own envelopes, and stamping them, and everything. She must have knew, you know come to the day that I would be running for my position. [sighs]

Grandma Lucy used to come over to my grandpa's house because we moved over. We stayed there for the summer. Her and her older sister, Emily Friedlander-Peone, they'd come to grandpa's and then they would strategize, you know about political issues that was at the table. I'd be playing around in there and kind of listening in. They had noticed me listening to them so they'd switch and talk Indian. [chuckles] Anyway, Grandma Lucy was really like that. Wherever she went, she had to strategize, really think out everything.

When the council wanted to-- When my dad and Mel got elected, Grandma Lucy-- Well Mel wanted to nominate her to be the chairman and she said no. Since right now, we're seven to seven and if we take the chair, we can't vote, one of us can't vote. We'll let them pick their chairman and we'll support them, so they did. Then when the vote came to terminate, it was seven against, and six for, the chair couldn't vote. [chuckles] [coughs]

She sold her own cattle to go to DC and then lobby Congress. She had a friend in Florida that had the bill that was going to be brought to Congress to terminate our reservations. She called him up after that vote and so he just ripped that bill and it never got presented. That was how close it was to being-- Our tribe would have lost all that land and our rights to hunt, fish.

Oh yeah, there's a lot of my people are all friendly. I guess they get to know you by seeing you participating and they come up and thank you for the work that you're doing. There's friends from all the different tribes and actually, a lot of them I'll see at NCAI and all the

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national meetings and they're all good people. A lot of them would ask me if I knew Lucy Covington. Like Willy Jones, when I first got in, I wanted to sue IHS and he says, "I haven't heard anybody talk like that since Lucy Covington. Do you know Lucy Covington?" [chuckles] Anyway, I told him, "Yeah. I know her really well. She's my mother's aunt, my grandma Lucy."

**[00:06:46] [END OF AUDIO]**