



CHEROKEE NATION

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On March 25, 1994, Gloria Steinem will celebrate her sixtieth birthday. In commemoration of her life and work and the enormous impact she has had on the lives of women all over the world, I have asked President Clinton to present her with the Presidential Medal of Honor. With this award, the entire nation can recognize her achievements and her commitment to human rights.

She is a one woman whirlwind, racing all over the country to encourage women like Carol Mosley Braun and Ada Deer in their elections long before they received national attention. She has hosted countless benefits for every conceivable social and political issue, marched for civil rights, sat in a Native American sweat lodge with a young Native woman who has HIV and just wanted Gloria's presence to help her with the battle ahead. She also writes about personal and poignant moments of her life in the hope that it will help others. Who can forget Ruth's Song, a tribute to her deceased mother who, with all her difficulties, gave us the gift of Gloria, a woman who has influenced Twentieth Century American culture like few other women. And, always and forever she keeps the faith for women's rights everywhere.

I am respectfully requesting that you take a few minutes of your busy schedule to write a letter to President Clinton urging him to award the Medal of Honor to Gloria. Please send a copy of your letter to Julie Burton, Voters for Choice, 2604 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20008. I know you probably don't need it but I have enclosed a brief biography for your reference.

In some cultures there are ceremonies or rituals for women who are making the transition from menopause and all that to the next phase of womanhood. In the absence of such a ritual in the general American culture, we have to create our own. While the Presidential Medal of Honor will not have the personal characteristics of a small community ceremony, it is a suitable national ritual for a woman who has been appropriately described as one who is co-dependent with the world.