



## CHEROKEE NATION

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Wilma P. Mankiller  
Principal Chief

John Ketcher  
Deputy Chief

August 30, 1993

Karla Coblentz  
Route #1, Box 505 A  
Catoosa, Oklahoma 74015

Dear Ms. Coblentz,

Sorry it has taken so long to respond to your letter dated June 25, 1993. I returned to work in early August and have been swamped since that time.

I had moderately severe systemtemic myasthenia gravis which was treated successfully by removal of my thymus, a procedure which requires open chest surgery. Making a decision to undergo the surgery was difficult because I was already very weak, with even my breathing muscles weakened by the time of diagnosis and surgery. For some people, this procedure is effective and for others it has no impact on the disease. In my case, it was very successful. Within a couple of weeks after surgery, I began the slow process of rebuilding my muscles.

Chemotherapy was not administered. I don't know why people keep using that word. It was drug therapy. I went on heavy doses of prednisone from 1981 until the end of 1985 when it was in almost complete remission. I have experienced no major signs of remission since that time.

Because of the kind of work I do I felt an aggressive, though somewhat risky, approach was necessary.

Your father may want to consider seeing someone at the Tulsa Muscular Dystrophy Association. I saw Dr. Dewitt and was very pleased with his handling of my myasthenia gravis.

I hope the above has been helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Wilma P. Mankiller  
Principal Chief

WPM/AC:bb

cc: Charles E. Hope  
1122 Swan Drive  
Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74006