



CHEROKEE NATION

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Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief

John A. Ketcher
Deputy Chief

February 11, 1993

Ruth Whitaker
2360 Londonderry
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-4014

Dear Ms. Whitaker:

It was great meeting you. I am writing this letter on my home computer less than ten miles from where Jack and Anna Kilpatrick are buried. They are both buried at Echota Cemetery here in the Rocky Mountain community in Adair County.

Thank you so much for your generous contribution in honor of Jack and Anna Kilpatrick. I have been working with a community-based after-school program for Cherokees aged 9-11 in Marble City (Sequoyah County). They have expressed a need for a library. Your gift will be used entirely for the purchase of books and materials for the library. Marble City is a rural full-blood community. There is a lot of volunteerism in that small community. Since Anna and Jack spent so much of their lives on literary pursuits, I thought it would be most appropriate to honor them by the building of this library.

This is a very poor community. They conduct the after-school programs in a small area of a closed public school. I think they understand fully that education has less to do with your physical surroundings than with your eagerness to learn and even to transcend your surroundings. In my view, education can occur under a tree, just as well as in a classroom. Anyway, the library will be in a corner of a room in the old Marble City School.

Again, best wishes to you and again, the fruits of your generous gift will be enjoyed by Cherokee children and youth for a long time to come.

Sincerely,

Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief