

Native American culture has spread out to all areas of our society today. The time has come for recognition of Native Americans by the government that represents all of us. I take this time to challenge the Cherokee Tribal Council to take the first step for all Native Americans to bring about a holiday.

Points of interest concerning a national holiday are bringing a nation together in peace and recognition of each other to include a day long festivity that would bring about a more peaceful and tranquil feeling of who we are as people and a country. The monetary value of this holiday would rival all existing holidays and would include a day of giving to the needy.

I restate my challenge to the Tribal Council to appoint an individual to head a holiday committee to empower them to take all necessary action to bring about a national holiday for all Native Americans. In doing this, I challenge the Tribal Council to set Native Americans on a course of leading all of us into the future, so that when the year 2000 arrives, we are standing in the doorway welcoming the change that we sent forth from this day forward. I challenge the Tribal Council to lead our people in the direction of producing a viable natural energy which will free our country from the energy sources of other countries.

My thanks to the Tribal Committee and Wilma Mankiller for allowing me to speak tonight before such an honored group of representatives. I thank you all.

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