

Dec. 31, 1992

Wilma Mankiller, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation Tribal Administration
P.O. 948
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74465

Dear Chief Mankiller,

I am writing to send you best wishes for the New Year and to thank you for your visit to Galveston, Texas last month. I am not sure if you remember me, but I asked you to autograph your picture and gave you some milagros from my artist friend, Ricardo Rojas. Like many of the people who attended your talk, I am proud to have a Cherokee ancestor (a great-great grandmother who lived in North Carolina and Virginia).

Your description of the tenacity of the Cherokee people, the importance of "keeping a good mind", and trusting in one's own intelligence touched me in many ways. First, it explained certain traits still present in my mother's family. Second, I had been discouraged by some chronic health problems and I was inspired and moved by your stamina and dedication. Lastly, I am a medical school professor and also work in a field dominated by men. (I worked at Yale during most of the 80's and I thought your description of the yuppie who wanted to know about your name was priceless!)

As you might guess, I am a great admirer of yours. My sister and I visited Qualla a few years ago, and saw your picture there. Since then she has sent me some inspiring magazine articles about your life and work. However, none of those articles compared with the experience of seeing you and hearing your thoughts. I hope that our next trip will be to Oklahoma.

I also have always hoped that there might be some way that I can be of service to the tribe. Please let me know if there is ever any information or assistance that I offer. I have enclosed my business card. (By the way, my area of research is kidney cell physiology.)

Thanks again for brightening my year.

Best wishes for health and happiness in 1993,

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