



## CHEROKEE NATION

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Wilma P. Mankiller  
Principal Chief

John A. Ketcher  
Deputy Chief

April 13, 1994

Ms. Wendy Dembeck  
Spring Valley Senior High School  
Route 59  
Spring Valley, NY 10977

Dear Ms. Dembeck:

You sound like just the type of woman your students need and the students sound like they are wonderful!

I am honored that you have chosen my book to study. What I hoped to convey was a sense of hope and renewal among our people. I also wanted to put our contemporary issues in a historical context in the hope that the reader would be able to clearly see all the historical factors which have played a part in our being where we are today.

I also wanted to share the story of my own evolution from a woman with very little self confidence to someone who has the confidence to lead. I hope this message comes through.

As we approach the next century it is very important that everyone in this country make a conscious, if sometimes painful, effort to break down stereotypes about one another. I hope books like mine will help eliminate stereotypes about Native people, particularly women.

Thanks for writing, thanks for studying my book and thanks for being your beautiful, curious selves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wilma P. Mankiller".

Wilma P. Mankiller  
Principal Chief