



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,

Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief