



CHEROKEE NATION

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Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief

John A. Ketcher
Deputy Chief

March 10, 1994

Ms. Burns:

Thank you for your kind letter and for sharing with me a valiant story. Through my job as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, I've been fortunate to hear from many, many brave people, like yourself. It has been an inspiration. I'm proud that this book touched you and that I have been blessed with the opportunity to reach a great number of people with the story of the Cherokee Nation.

I appreciate your struggle in tracing your Cherokee Nation and wish you well in your quest. Many tribal members have no problem documenting their Cherokee ancestry; on the other hand, there are many Cherokees who are not able to locate records to document it.

The Cherokee Nation today is a thriving government, operating on a \$78 million annual budget, about half of which comes from federal programs. We provide health care, education and job training for our members. We are also very active in economic development initiatives and consider ourselves a partner in the progress of Oklahoma. Our employment now stands at around 1,100, a professional workforce of which we are very proud. We have a strong contingent of social workers, including MSW's. If you're interested working here, I might suggest getting more information about position availabilities and requirements through the personnel department.

Again, thank you so much for writing. Letters like yours are an inspiration.

Sincerely,

Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief