

care, the Cherokee Nation sponsored a program to teach students how to read and write the Cherokee language. "I can't help but feel hopeful about our future," Mankiller noted in her 1990 State of the Nation address:

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I think the strongest thing I see as I travel around to Cherokee communities and talk with people is their tenacity [persistence]. Despite everything that's happened to our people throughout history we've managed to hang on to our culture, we've managed to hang on to our sense of being Cherokee.

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