



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

Chief Eric Thompson
Chief Beverly Cook
Chief Michael Conners
Sub-Chief Cheryl Jacobs
Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs
Sub-Chief Agnes Jacobs

Kentenhkó:wa/November 30, 2017

U.S. President Donald Trump
The White House.
Office of the President.
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Tekwanonhwerá:tons/Greetings President Trump,

On *Kentenhkó:wa*/November 27, 2017; The White House convened a ceremony intended to recognize and honor Native American Code Talkers for their contributions in helping the United States and its allies to be victorious in World War II. During the ceremony however, you used it as an opportunity to verbally insult U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA).

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is disappointed, but not altogether surprised that you would take advantage of the event to disparage a female member of Congress in front of Native American Code Talkers. The Tribe holds all Native American veterans in high esteem, particularly members of our own Akwesasne Mohawk Code Talkers for their military achievements and contributions have helped enrich the history of the United States. To use the event; again while disappointing, but not surprising; to insult a Senator is an insult to the proud military service of all Native American Code Talkers.

The use of the term Pocahontas as a means to verbally abuse a female adversary adds insult to injury, given the reality that Native American women experience a disproportionate high level of violence and Pocahontas was herself abused by settlers during her short life. To capitalize on an event to cast aspersions on a Senator is as inappropriate as trying to justify the use of the pejorative term by prefacing it as "they." We find it equally inappropriate for others following the event to determine what they think is disrespectful for us.

The fact that you are unaware of the connotations associated with the term Pocahontas speaks volumes with regard to the manner in which Native American people are viewed generally. The additional fact that you chose to conduct the ceremony in front of Andrew Jackson's picture speaks to your lack of understanding about this country's history toward Native Americans. As the signer of the Indian Removal Act, Jackson has been solely responsible for the forced relocation and death of countless Native peoples along the Trail of Tears.

Helping Build A Better Tomorrow
lakhiiénawá:se' Sénha Aioianerénhake ne Enióhrhen'ne

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We demand that you refrain from continuing to use the term in a derogatory manner and that you issue an apology to all Native American Code Talkers that formally acknowledge their military service as proud members of the United States Armed Forces.

Niawen:kówa/Thank you very much,

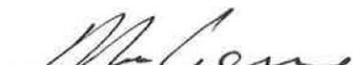
SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBAL COUNCIL



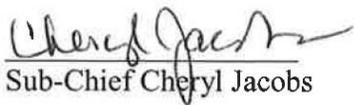
Chief Eric Thompson



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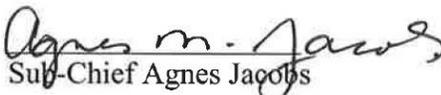
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