

Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

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Oneidas bringing several hundred bags of corn to Washington's starving army at Valley Forge, after the colonists had consistently refused to aid them.



UGWA DEMOLUM YATEHE
Because of the help of this Oneida Chief in cementing a friendship between the six nations and the Colony of Pennsylvania, a new nation, the United States, was made possible.

RESOLUTION # 10-02-91-A

WHEREAS the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin is a federally recognized Indian government and a treaty tribe recognized by the laws of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Oneida General Tribal Council is the governing body of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, the Oneida Business Committee has been delegated the authority of Article IV, Section 1 of the Oneida Tribal Constitution by the Oneida General Tribal Council, and

WHEREAS, the cultural and spiritual survival of Native American people is closely tied to the continuation, preservation and well-being of our tribal religious traditions; and

WHEREAS, the right to worship is a fundamental human right that most Americans take for granted; and

WHEREAS in Lying v. Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association, and in Employment Division, Dept. of Human Resources v. Smith, the Supreme Court ruled that the First Amendment does not protect traditional Native American sacred sites from destruction (Lying), or the peyote religion of the Native American Church, (Smith); and,

WHEREAS, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act has not prevented the Federal government from unnecessarily engaging in activities which impair or disturb Native American Religious practices on federal lands;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin urges Congress to enact legislation that will protect Native American religions and basic religious freedom, similar to that recently circulated to tribal leaders by Senator Inouye.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: to that end, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin petitions Congress to immediately hold hearings on legislative proposals that have been developed to protect Native American religious freedom, with the goal of passing legislation by the end of 1992.

