

# Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

## BUSINESS COMMITTEE



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.

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### P R O C L A M A T I O N

April 16, 2003

#### TO THE FAMILY OF LORI PIESTEWA AND THE HOPI NATION FROM THE ONEIDA NATION

The Oneidas, in the ceremonies given to them in ancient times, condoled the families of those who passed on to the Spirit World. We, the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, now condole the family of Lori Piestewa and the Hopi Nation in this time when she gave her life, as a young woman, for us and all the people of the United States so that we may be safe and that we can continue to practice our freedoms. We honor her memory today and every day for her supreme sacrifice.

A string of wampum, made of quahog shell beads, and eagle feather and the softest deer skin are used in this ceremony to wipe away the tears, to overcome a hearing obstacle at these crying times and to clear the throats, of those bereaved, so that they may speak clearly again.

We, the Oneida people, including our six hundred veterans who fought in the Revolutionary War for the thirteen colonies and every war since, our active duty personnel, many who are now in Iraq, our school children, who are concerned and caring and are conducting a Penny Drive for Lori's children, our elders, who are wise and have seen so much in their lifetimes and all of our fifteen thousand citizens do proclaim:

With this string (of wampum) we wipe away the tears from your eyes. If ever we meet up with someone, who is in as much grief as we, we would surely condole them, so that they may see clearly again their path here upon the Earth.

With this string, we clear away the obstruction from your ears. If ever we meet up with someone who is in as much grief as we, we would surely condole them so that they are able to hear the words again that people are conveying to them.

With this string, we take away the parchness from your throats. If ever we meet up with someone in as much grief as we, we would surely condole them so that they may speak to one another again.

We, the Oneida People, recognize that we all have a place, a purpose, and responsibilities to carry out here on Mother Earth. We also recognize that Lori Piestewa carried out her responsibilities to the fullest, and we, the Oneida People, are profoundly grateful to her and her family.

For the Oneida People,

Cristina Danforth,  
Oneida Nation Chairwoman