

Resolution Honoring the Life of Frank LaMere

WHEREAS, Frank LaMere was an enrolled member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, was one of 13 children and the son of a Gold Star mother, Matilda and a combat veteran father, John; and

WHEREAS, he always fought for those among us who needed a voice for justice; and

WHEREAS, LaMere was the longest serving Native American on the Democratic National Committee, founded the Native Caucus both in Nebraska and at the national level, and attended eight National Conventions as a delegate; and

WHEREAS, he was a strong and caring advocate for veterans and military families. Having lost his brother in Vietnam, he was a champion for peace, diplomacy, and alternatives to war. Within the DNC, he was a passionate voice for establishing the DNC Veterans and Military Families Council, promoting the inclusion of Native Veterans in our coalitions, and advancing outreach to and resources for Blue Star families; and

WHEREAS, LaMere worked for 20 years to end the crisis of illegal alcohol sales in White Clay resulting in the beginning of justice for Lakota families beginning the long journey to recovery and ensuring Lakota families have access to long-term treatment and economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, he was a champion for Mother Earth working with indigenous leaders, farmers and ranchers who are opposed to projects that threaten the climate, land and water; and

WHEREAS, LaMere fought against police brutality and called on our elected officials to provide true access to mental health coverage and an accurate count of missing indigenous women; and

WHEREAS, he was a proud member of the American Indian Movement working to honor the sovereignty and treaty rights of Native Nations and urging reforms to the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

WHEREAS, LaMere was a man of many interests and talents who founded the first alcohol-free, Native American fast-pitch softball team that was the only team to compete in the International SoftBall Congress; and

WHEREAS, he was recognized by Nebraska Wesleyan University with an honorary law degree for his advocacy in human and civil rights and by Nebraska Indian Community College; and
WHEREAS, he would often tell us, “there’s work to be done” and “We must do our best for the most people” and “nothing changes until someone is made to feel uncomfortable;” and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2019, Dr. Frank LaMere, Manape Huk ga “Soldier Chief,” was called to the Creator, leaving a legacy of service and strength;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we give our love to Frank LaMere's family Cynthia Rouse LaMere, Jennifer LaMere, Hazen LaMere, Manape Hocinci-ga LaMere and the late Lexie Wakan LaMere;

and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DNC honor the legacy of Frank LaMere by working with the Nebraska Democratic Party and sponsors of this resolution to create, in Nebraska, the Frank LaMere Grassroots Fellows Program to honor Frank's commitment to Democrats especially in rural communities where leaders are judged not on material items but on the "road dust collected."