DATE: 7/10/2024

TO: All Employees

FROM: Janet Alkire Chairwoman

RE: Thomas Red Bird Observance – Tribal Chambers

On July 11, 2024 MR THOMAS RED BIRD, will lay in state in the Tribal Chambers from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm.

I ask all employees to please take the time to offer prayers for the family. Mr. Red Bird will be dearly missed. He dedicated his life to the preservation of our language.

In observance of this event, all Tribal Employees will be entitled to 4 hours of excused time off with pay to commence at 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm. In order to receive pay for the excused time off, the employee must be at work or approved paid leave status on the scheduled workday before and after, July 11, 2024.

Should you have any questions, please contact Human Resources at 854-3826

XC: Tribal Council
    Administration
    Human Resources
    Payroll
A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORIAM
IŚNÁ WİCHÁ / THOMAS W. RED BIRD

WHEREAS, Thomas Red Bird is descended from ancestors who fought at Greasy Grass, from whom he inherited his last name, his Lakota name, and his warrior spirit; and

WHEREAS, Tom was raised along Híŋhán Wákȟáŋ by his grandparents, who provided him a solid foundation in the traditional Lakota ways, and his parents, who instilled in him an unshakeable work ethic; and

WHEREAS, Tom grew up immersed in the Lakota language, and learned his second language, English, at school in Iron Lightning and Eagle Butte, from which he graduated in 1969; and

WHEREAS, Tom lived the life of an ikčé wícháša, a common family man who, alongside his wife, raised children, nieces, nephews, and then grandchildren in a loving, supportive home; and

WHEREAS, Tom led a diverse and meaningful career, including at the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Bismarck Parks and Rec, United Tribes Technical College, Lakȟól’iyapi Wahóhipi (Standing Rock’s Language Immersion Nest), and as a teacher and mentor at the Dakota/Lakota Summer Institute; and

WHEREAS, Tom has been a near constant presence at the Nest since its founding, despite the long, daily commute from his home in Bismarck, and has immersed a generation of wakȟáŋyeža and their families in the very best of Lakota values, language, culture, and prayer; and

WHEREAS, Tom was known affectionately as Lalá to the many people he positively impacted at Standing Rock and across the world, who will remember and treasure him long after his return to the stars, where he takes his rightful place among our greatest ancestors,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Friday, July 12, 2024, upon which his body will be returned to Úŋči Makhá, be proclaimed a day of prayer in memoriam across the Standing Rock Nation.

Janet Alkire, Chairwoman
Standing Rock Nation

Date
7-10-24