



## **INTRODUCTION AND SPEECH**

**BY**

**CHAIRMAN JOHN TELLER**

**TO HONOR**

**HILARY J. "SPARKY" WAUKAU**

**On Friday, March 15, 1996, the Daughters of the American Revolution of Wisconsin awarded the DAR National Conservation Medal to Hilary J. Waukau, posthumously, at their 100th State Conference Banquet.**

**What follows is the introduction and speech made at the Wisconsin DAR banquet by Menominee Nation Chairman John Teller to honor Hilary Waukau.**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Wisconsin, Distinguished guests, and Friends and relatives:**

**Thank you for inviting us and our prayers go up to the Great Spirit for His Blessing...**

**We are here tonight at the 100th State Conference of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Wisconsin to honor Hilary J. "Sparky" Waukau, for his work for conservation of the environment and our natural resources.**

**In our traditional ways, with respect to those being honored tonight, we offer you these special songs in our traditional language**

**We share this festive event with the honor of our Warriors, our Color Guard, and our Viet Nam Veterans by displaying the American Flag, the Menominee Flag, and the traditional Menominee Flag. We would ask everyone to stand at this time, proud and with respect to all those being honored.**

**Displayed for your viewing is Mr. Hilary Waukau's spirit on paper--**

**His contributions to human society, both for Native Americans, for the environment, and for the protection of our natural resources ensure that his name, his image, will go down in**

history as one of the greatest leaders of all time.

His loincloth is beaded with the Marine Corps insignia.

His vest is beaded in a Menominee floral design that Menominee ancestors wore, as we know it, for 1000s of years.

He proudly wears the Eagle Feather on his Marine Corps Legion Utility hat.

Most importantly, he holds a sacred peace pipe.

As a young man in World War II, he fought in the great battles at Tarawa and Saipan. So you can see how proud he was of America and his Menominee heritage.

Following his tour of duty for this great country, he served in various capacities of leadership in the Old Advisory Council of Chiefs and before the Termination era which began in 1954.

He also served on the Menominee County Board as County Chairman, as County Administrator, as a Menominee Tribal Legislator and served in a very prestigious judicial position--on the Supreme Court of the Menominee Nation.

In 1993, the Menominee Tribal Legislature and Menominee Nation honored him by renaming the Menominee Forestry Center the Hilary J. Waukau Senior Forestry and Environmental Resources Center.

Most notable to all and the reason your organization, the Daughters of the American Revolution of Wisconsin, is awarding the DAR National Conservation Medal to Hilary J. Waukau tonight is what he has done in the fight for the environment and the opposition to Exxon's efforts to put a metallic sulfide mine at the headwaters of the Wolf River.

He devoted the last part of his life to stopping this Exxon/Rio Algom Crandon mine. Embedded in our minds is the image of Hilary at the Protect the Earth Gathering at the Mole Lake Indian Reservation in 1994. As he led 500 people in his wheelchair on a march from Mole Lake to the proposed Crandon Mine site, Hilary carried the Eagle Feather Staff, the traditional flag of the Indian Nations. Hilary J. Waukau's dedication to Mother Earth inspired everyone to preserve and protect our beautiful country's environment and natural resources.

Hilary spoke one message that rings against the mine to all Menominees, all Native Americans, and anyone who knew him:

*"As long as those valuable metals are in the ground, we as humans can never rest because the beast of greed and exploitation will be over our heads and over generations who inhabit this part of the country to the end of eternity."*

And now, as the Chief Executive Officer of the Menominee Nation, I salute you Hilary J. Waukau...Sparky, we will remember you in our hearts. We honor your achievements, your life, and your spirit.

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