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## FOREWORD: FLYING EAGLE WOMAN

*Tonya Gonnella Frichner*†

Ingrid Washinawatok, *O'Peqtaw-Metamoh* (Flying Eagle Woman) passed into the Spirit World on March 4, 1999 at the age of 41. Ingrid was born on the Menominee Indian Reservation on July 31, 1957, the daughter of Honorable James Washinawatok and Gwendolyn (Dodge) Washinawatok. Ingrid is survived by her husband of over 17 years, Ali El-Issa and her son Maeh-kiw-kasic of Brooklyn, New York. Ingrid carried on the legacy of compassion and kindness initiated by the activism and causes that her father, a member of the Menominee Supreme Court, actively supported throughout his lifetime. Ingrid was a loving wife, mother, daughter, sister, auntie and friend, a proud citizen of the Menominee Nation, and an internationally known humanitarian who fought for Indigenous Peoples' rights throughout the world.

She served as Executive Director of the Fund of the Four Directions, located in New York City, where she planned and organized grant-making policies and initiated a new effort to revitalize Indigenous languages. Ingrid was recognized as the 1998 Indian Woman of the Year and was recently selected by the Rockefeller Foundation as an Outstanding Leader in the National Generation Leadership Program. She received an award in 1998 from the Northstar Foundation honoring Outstanding Women. The Northstar Foundation memorializes the historical escapes of African American Slaves who followed the Northstar to freedom.

Ingrid was co-chair of the Network where she voiced concerns for Native women through activism, literature, and community work. The Indigenous Women's Network was founded to assist women of the younger generation through education of the struggles women have encountered historically. She was an active member of the Indigenous Initiative for Peace, convened by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberto Menchu Tum, and she organized and participated in the First, Second, and Third State of the World Forums. Additionally, she served as an Official Translator for the International Indigenous Conference and was a delegate for the

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† Member of the Onondaga Nation and graduate of the City University of New York School of Law (1987). The author is also a Member of the School of Law's Board of Visitors, President and Founder of the American Indian Law Alliance, and Professor of Native American Law at the Greenberg Center for Legal Education and Urban Policy at the City College of New York.

Commission on Human Rights and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. Ingrid was also Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Native Americans in Philanthropy and served on the Boards for the Sister Fund, the National Network of Grantmakers, the American Indian Community House, the Native American Council of New York City, and the Selection Committee for the Letelier Moffit Human Rights Award.

Ingrid was an award-winning lecturer who frequently spoke on behalf of the rights of Indigenous Peoples regionally and internationally. She co-produced the film documentary "Warrior." Ingrid also received numerous awards from the Asian American, Hispanic American, and African American communities for her repeated efforts and promotion of each community.

The loss of my sister, Ingrid Washinawatok, is a great loss to her nation, to the New York City Native community, and to Indigenous Peoples everywhere who have chosen to advocate for our people in an international forum. It is an especially great loss to those of us who were privileged to have her in our lives on a daily basis. Ingrid taught us that although our responsibilities are great, and our duty is to be of service to the people; we can serve with respect, compassion, equality and especially, good humor. Regardless of the nature of the struggle, life is a gift to be enjoyed everyday. That is her legacy.