

"ALL CULTURES ARE NATIONAL TREASURES"

Article by Florence G. Patterson

PICEI has The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe to thank for the sponsoring of two of the events for the Mohawk youth and The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne for the transportation of the group to and from Akwesasne, as well as transportation during the groups stay in Washington, D.C. Congressman Owens provided the group with tickets to the Capital, Hall of Congress, where the group learned of the history of the men that sat in the halls of Congress, and the artistic make-up of the hall of statues. Most of the group found this part of their trip extremely interesting. PICEI wishes to thank Congressman Owens for his efforts to support the group as well.

However, as always in this life, there is drama every now and then and PICEI was not short of that within this particular project. As three of PICEI participants missed the segment of the trip to Congress. Those that strayed went around and around trying to reconnect with the group once they went their separate ways on different occasions.

Many of the participants on the cultural tour found the most exciting part was the Indian Museum, which housed several cultures within the native culture. PICEI recommends that when visiting Washington DC, the Native American Museum is an important one to see. The White House was under a type of Alert status during PICEI stay therefore, we were not able to visit.



American Indian Museum, Washington, DC

The participants that traveled with PICEI wore traditional clothing when visiting the Capital. Lorraine George and her grandson, Evan wore their beautiful ribbon shirts April White, her sister Veronica from Las Vegas and her daughter who had planned to Hoop Dance was unable to do so since many of the other dancers were not able to make the trip. Vivian Smoke and her grandnephew Ethan and grandniece Gabriel were among the group. Betty Swamp wore a completely gorgeous outfit and her three grand children, Kanrontawhon, Devon and Starlet, wore striking traditional clothing. Lorraine Holt and her granddaughter, Victoria C. Cang-Holt from Richmond, Virginia came by

railroad and joined the group in *Washington*. The project director, Carl Patterson, Jr. did an excellent job, along with



Florence Patterson and the driver (of course) in getting everyone safely there and back home. PICEI Marketing Director, Topez Patterson and her friend Roberto from Long Island joined the group for a day.

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Akwesasne Museum

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History and culture from a Mohawk point of view...

Thank You

