

# Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

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Oneidas bringing several hundred bags of corn to Washington's starving army at Valley Forge, after the colonists had consistently refused to aid them.



UGWA DEMOLUM YATEHE  
Because of the help of this Oneida Chief in cementing a friendship between the six nations and the colony of Pennsylvania, a new nation, the United States was made possible.

## **BC Resolution # 07-14-99A**

### *Proclamation Naming Elderly Services Complex "Lee Gordon McLester, II Elder Complex"*

WHEREAS, the Oneida General Tribal Council is the duly recognized governing body of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of the Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, the General Tribal Council has been delegated the authority of the Constitution of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, the Oneida Business Committee may be delegated duties and responsibilities by the Oneida General Tribal Council and is at all times subject to the review powers of the Oneida General Tribal Council, and

WHEREAS, the Oneida Tribe has adopted the Naming of Tribal Buildings Policy which sets forth procedures for the naming of tribal buildings, and

WHEREAS, the Oneida Nation Commission on Aging approved two names which were forwarded to the building manager for the Elderly Services Complex, and

WHEREAS, the building manager has forwarded the approval of the name "Lee Gordon McLester, II Elder Complex" to the Oneida Nation Commission on Aging, and

WHEREAS, the Oneida Nation Commission on Aging choose the name "Lee Gordon McLester, II Elder Complex" for the following reasons to honor this individual,

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Lee Gordon McLester, II is familiar to our elders, our youth and all those in between; his dreams, life, work and resulting accomplishments have touched us all.

Lee's dreams for his tribe and family are evidenced by his life-long involvement in community action. He was twice elected to the Executive Committee which served the Oneida Community prior to the nine-man council currently governing the tribe. With Irene Moore, Chairwoman, Althea Schuyler, treasurer, Eva Danforth secretary and Lee as vice-chair, the Executive Committee bought land from Episcopal Church and secured funding from HUD for the first Oneida housing development (Site I). In 1963 he was elected to the vice chairman position of the Oneida Business Committee which he held through 1965.

Appointed by the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal, Lee served as the first CAP coordinator of the six Offices of Economic Opportunity (OEO) programs. A Journeyman toolmaker and Journeyman machinist, Lee and his son, Gordon developed one of the first job-training programs and business on the reservation to training and hire only Oneidas.

Other "firsts" for Lee include development of the format and budget for the Oneida Headstart Program in June 1966. Along with other notables like Woody Webster and Artley Skenandore, Sr., Lee was instrumental in producing the first Oneida newsletter. He was also the first Oneida to become a state accredited instructor/teacher at Northwest Technical College where he taught off and on for 20 years before retiring from the Marinette Campus in 1980.

Elected in 1980 to the Commission on Aging, Lee served two four year terms as chairman and vice-chair. Working in concert with all the members of the Commission, they acquired and remodeled the Multi-purpose Center in 1985. The Oneida Community has recently celebrated the ground-breaking ceremonies for Red Stone Village, a Community Based Residential Facility on Overland Drive.

Lee has served on the Appeals Commission, transportation committee, chairs the Commission on Aging and as a delegate to Lake Michigan-Winnebago Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

Lee was born October 15, 1916 in Pawhuska, Oklahoma to Blanche Marie King and Lee Gordon McLester I. The family moved to Oneida in 1953 where Lee has lived for 55 years. His pursuit of education also took him to Detroit for 17 years and the University of South Dakota for one year.

The proud father of seven children; Lee Gordon McLester, III; Judy Marie McLester/Cornelius; Winnifred Lavina McLester/Thomas; Patsy Jean McLester (died in 1948); Pearl Blanche McLester/Webster; and twin sons, Ronald Lee and Donald Dean McLester.

Lee enjoyed woodworking, using the camcorder, fishing, traveling and photography. His wife of 55 years, Pearl Marie Schuyler McLester, children and grandchildren say it best for all of us. Lee Gordon McLester II was one of our own. Father, grandfather, tribal member, tribal leader...

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida Business Committee hereby adopts this resolution and the name "**Lee Gordon McLester, II Elder Complex.**"

#### CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Oneida Business Committee, hereby certify that the Oneida Business Committee is composed of 9 members of whom 5 members constitute a quorum. 6 members were present at a meeting duly called, noticed and held on the 14th day of July, 1999; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by a vote of 3 members for; 0 members against, and 2 members not voting; and that said resolution has not be rescinded or amended in any way,



Julie Barton, Tribal Secretary  
Oneida Business Committee

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### STATEMENT OF EFFECT Proclamation Regarding Naming Elderly Service Complex

#### Summary

This proclamation proposes that the name of the Elderly Service Complex be – Lee Gordon McLester, II Elder Complex.

#### Analysis

The Oneida Tribe adopted the Policy on Naming of Tribal Buildings in 1995. This policy recognized that public buildings of the Oneida Tribe should be named after individuals or groups to recognize, “...their dedication and help in efforts to help the Oneida Tribe and its citizens realize better social, health, family, and employment conditions to name a few. Throughout the generations, there have always been individuals and groups who have given more than their share of themselves for the benefit of the Tribe and its citizens.” *Policy on Naming of Tribal Buildings, sec. 1-1.*

This policy sets forth steps to name three different types of buildings – buildings already owned by the Oneida Tribe prior to 1995, buildings purchased by the Oneida Tribe after 1995, and new building construction. However, each had basically the same steps.

The building manager, or project team for new construction, forwards the building location and purpose to Oneida Nation Commission on Aging (ONCOA). ONCOA receives this information, identifies suitable names and approves at least two. These names are forwarded to the building manager, or project team, and one of the names is chosen. If more than one program or enterprise is located in the building, then the building manager will poll those programs and enterprises for the choice of names. The building manager, or ONCOA, then draws up a resolution which includes the reason for choosing that name. In this instance, ONCOA drew up the proclamation resolution.

These steps have been followed in this instance. ONCOA choose two names.

1. “Elders where they live” on May 19, 1998.

Motion made by Prudy Doxtator to accept the sign that Hudson came up with (Oneida language at the top and English at the bottom. Seconded by Kenny Hill. Pearl McLester abstains. Motion carried.

2. “Lee Gordon McLester II Elderly Complex” on October 13, 1998.

Motion made by Warren Skenandore to submit to David Larsen the name of Lee McLester for the naming of this building. Seconded by Erv Thompson. Pearl McLester and Mary Edna Greendeer abstained. Motion carried.

These names were forwarded to David Larson who is the Director of Long Term Care in the Elder Services Complex. It is presumed that he is the equivalent of the building manager for this complex as only one building exists. A memo from Mr. Larson indicates that he has chosen option 2 identified above.

ONCOA requested assistance from the Oneida Law Office to draft the proclamation from a prior testimonial to Lee G. McLester, II. This resolution was submitted to the Oneida Business Committee.

The appropriate steps have been taken in regards to naming this building. While it is preferable that the selection of names be chosen at a single meeting, there are no prohibitions on choosing names at separate meetings. Further, the policy does not clearly identify who is responsible for drafting the proclamation. However, since ONCOA has the underlying reasons why a name was chosen, it would appear appropriate that ONCOA draft the proclamation.

#### Conclusion

There are no legal issues which would prohibit adoption of this resolution.