

# ***Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin***

## **BUSINESS COMMITTEE**



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.

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**BC Resolution # 6-29-01-A**

### **Proclamation Naming the Oneida Food Distribution Building Nori Damrow Food Distribution Center**

**WHEREAS,** the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin is a federally recognized Indian government and Treaty Tribe recognized by the laws of the United States, and

**WHEREAS,** the Oneida General Council is the governing body of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and

**WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee has been delegated the authority of Article IV, Section of the Oneida Constitution by 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 Community Integrated Food Systems Program Coordinator of the Oneida Food Distribution Building, and

**WHEREAS,** the Community Integrated Food Systems Program Coordinator has forwarded the approval of the name "Nori Damrow Food Distribution Center" to the Oneida Nation Commission on Aging, and

**WHEREAS,** the Oneida Nation Commission on Aging supports naming the Oneida Food Distribution Building the "Nori Damrow Food Distribution Center" and ratified this support by approval of ONCOA Resolution 6-12-01A which honors this individual for the following reasons:

Nori Damrow is a person that is known by all community members. Some know her from her church involvement, others from her extra Tribal activities, but she is best known for assisting our low-income community members with their food and nutrition needs.

In 1979 Nori became aware of the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) being offered by the USDA to Indian reservations, and due to her perseverance the Oneida Business Committee approved Oneida participation in the FDPIR later that same year. In 1984 Nori became the first and only Director of the Oneida Food Distribution Program.

Nori has always had a strong sense of belief in both God and her tribe. That may account for willingness to give unconditionally. The people that come into the Food Distribution Building aren't just numbers, but they are her friends, her neighbors, her equals.

Ms. Damrow knew there were quite a few people on the Oneida Reservation who were, for one reason or another, not receiving the USDA food assistance. For 15 years, Nori envisioned an Oneida Food Pantry that could set it's own standards for it's people. Through persistence and diligence, Ms. Damrow made that food pantry a reality in March 2000. Her inspiration is contagious, and the pantry is entirely run by volunteers. There are few people who can inspire the type of loyalty and dedication that Nori Damrow does.

These programs currently service a great number of families. For example, the Oneida Food Distribution Program (OFDP) serves approximately 600 people/families a month. Each person/family receives a food package valued at \$100. This equates to \$60,000 worth of food a month. In 2000, The Oneida Pantry Emergency Network was opened and now serves approximately 150 people/families a month. Each person/family receives a food package valued at \$100. This equates to \$15,000 worth of food a month.

Nori's dedication to her community and her people is evident by her commitment to serve them. She works most Saturdays and Sundays without pay or praise (e.g.. picking sweet corn and cleaning all weekend so that she can bring it into the food pantry on Monday). She refuses to take mileage money, for she believes the Tribe needs the money more than she does, and four years ago when it looked like the budget cuts may shut down her program she offered part of her salary to the program so that she may continue to help the low-income community members (fortunately it did not come to that).

Throughout her lifetime Nori has been actively involved in her community. She was the Chair on Oneida Nation Commission on Aging (ONCOA) for 2 terms, Chair of the Museum Board and Chair of the Miss Oneida Committee.

Nori Damrow was born in Oneida on February 26, 1926. She has spent part of her life traveling throughout the United States living and working with Native Americans across the country, but the majority of her 75 years she has spent here in Oneida helping the less fortunate. Nori is the proud mother of Lloyd Powless and daughter-in-law Sharon Powless, and anyone that knows Nori will know of her love for her Grandson Mark and Great Grandson Alex.

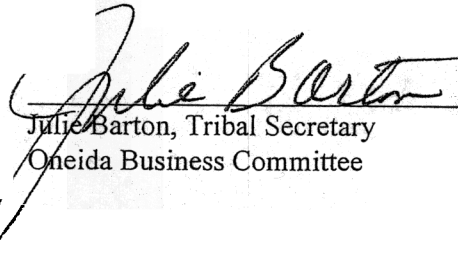
Besides helping people, Nori's other hobby is making Native American arts and crafts.

Nori never had dreams of being in power or politics. She was happy just making life easier for her fellow tribal members. The people of Green Bay considered Leo Frigo from Paul's Pantry to be a saint. The Oneida people have their own modern day saint amongst them, and that person is Nori Damrow.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oneida Business Committee hereby adopts this resolution and the name "Nori Damrow Food Distribution Center."

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Oneida Business Committee, hereby certify that the Oneida Business Committee is composed of nine members of whom 5 members constitute a quorum. 6 members were present at a meeting duly called, noticed and held on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2001; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by a vote of 5 members for: 0 members against, and 0 members not voting; and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.



Julie Barton, Tribal Secretary  
Oneida Business Committee