



Dear Friend,

**I**t was a terrifying experience! Ten days after the infamous 9/11 attack, I flew to Philadelphia to attend a meeting and checked into the hotel. Everything was fine until the woman at the desk gave me a room on the "19th" floor. That did it. I couldn't stop thinking about the victims of that terrible day. All kinds of scary thoughts crossed my mind. What if a terrorist plane flew into the hotel? What if a fire broke out in the middle of the night?

It happened! About 2:15 a.m. I was awakened by a shrill fire alarm and the loud announcement: "For your safety, please stay in your room. Do not open your door into the corridor." The piercing sound continued with another announcement: "Do not leave your room unless you are notified it's safe to do so." It was at least a half hour before the siren and messages stopped. I stared at the ceiling for the rest of the night.

It was a much different experience at the Heritage Living Center a few nights ago. The fire alarm went off at 1:30 a.m. This was the real thing, not one of our scheduled fire drills to make sure the staff and residents know what to do in case of an emergency.

### ***Waking up to an ear-piercing alarm and flashing strobe light is not the most pleasant wake up call.***

I envisioned the Heritage Living Center going up in flames! My heart pounded as I prayed, "Please Lord, keep us safe!" The same rules applied: keep your door to the hallway closed and stay in your room.

Within minutes the staff located the trouble. It wasn't a fire but a defective fire sensor on the automatic alarm system. A staff member came to tell me and the other residents the cause of the alarm. What a relief! We all calmed down and went back to bed.

I'm telling this story out of deep gratitude to you and everyone who has made the Heritage Living Center possible. You helped us to build this safe home for the elders. We were able to install all the safety features required by law, such as the automatic fire detection system. The elders not only receive the best of care, they are also safe from the tragedy of fire.



Spring has arrived in Montana. On warm days some of the elders are eager to work in our plant and vegetable gardens. But a few sunny days in early May can trick the anxious gardener. It's not uncommon for temperatures to drop 25 degrees or more in just half an hour. Storms and high winds can suddenly bring cold rain mixed with several inches of snow.

But the sunny days the elders have been waiting for have finally arrived. This Memorial Day weekend we'll have happy gardeners at the Heritage Living Center. In closing, I want to again express my heartfelt gratitude for all that you do for the Northern Cheyenne elders. Without your loving concern, we couldn't care for their many needs. May God bless you always for your generous spirit.

Your grateful beggar friend,

*Father Emmett Hoffmann*



# Enjoying life at the Heritage Living Center



The Cheyenne elders and the Montessori School children have their own daily schedules, yet they look forward to events that bring them all together. The participating elders and the children have their own plots in the community garden, to plant and care for their own plants. Even though it is not competitive gardening they love to compare who has the largest or best plants.

Some of the elders are also teachers, making regular visits to the Montessori Center during the week to teach the Cheyenne language. Others share stories they heard from their parents or grandparents passing on the oral history of the tribe and share the special skills they have acquired with the children.



On a blustery day in January, Cowboy Ted, a champion roper from Utah visited the Montessori and Day Care children (photo, above). The founder of *Cowboy Ted's Kid's Club*, he loves to spend time teaching children the skills of roping a steer. The children took turns learning how to throw the lasso over the steers head. The cowboy elders enjoyed watching how quickly the children mastered using a lariat. It brought back memories of long ago and how they learned to rope including their greatest roping experiences at rodeos.

On May 11, 2006 the Montessori children had a Tea Party for their mothers with a special invitation for the grandmother elders at the Heritage Living Center (photo, left). The Montessori and Day Care children served tea and cake to their parents and grandparents at their table and to one special elder guest.

Our little dog Fergie has captured the heart of the children and the elders. She instinctively senses when someone is not feeling well giving them her attention and love. In early February Fergie had a torn ligament in her right rear knee that required surgery. Both the elders and the children were worried wishing Fergie a quick and complete recovery. One of our donors graciously volunteered and spent seven weeks nursing Fergie back to health during the most critical time of her recovery. Without her watchful eye and round the clock care Fergie's recovery would have been near impossible.



# Discovering what makes a Hero

The life story of Harry P. Littlebird • 1918-1996

BY RENEE SANSOM FLOOD

*If Harry P. Littlebird were alive today, he wouldn't want anybody to call him a hero. But the facts show that Harry was one of the most decorated soldiers of Montana's Northern Cheyenne Tribe.*

Some might think that nothing in his humble beginnings would account for Harry's success on the battlefields of World War II, but a closer look at his childhood gives clues to the man he would become.

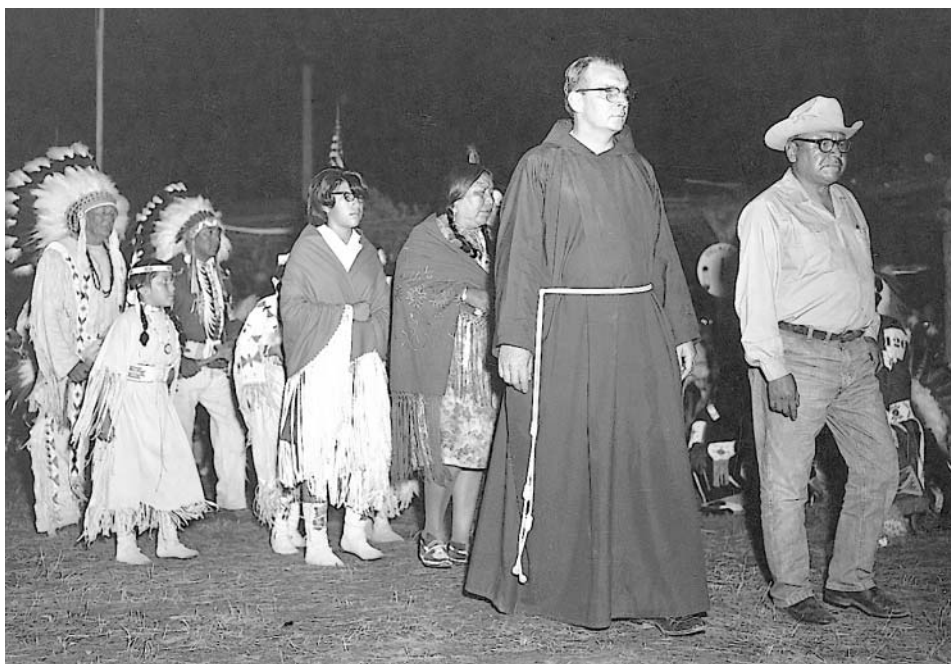
"Because I saved, I always had money in my pocket," Harry told a friend. To many, this statement wouldn't mean much unless you knew the conditions under which Harry grew up. In 1928, when he was 10 years-old, an investigation called *The Meriam Report* described unbearable living conditions on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. The official results proved that tribal members were victims of "criminal neglect."

The Cheyenne were dying of diseases because they didn't have enough food. They were living in tents and log cabins with temperatures 40 degrees below zero and when they got sick, there was inadequate healthcare available. How did Harry survive?

He learned how to work. If he didn't work, he didn't eat. He was resourceful: "I started work at 4 a.m. and I worked until dark feeding stock, weeding in the gardens and building fences at the mission for 25 cents an hour. I worked at the CCC camps and in the saw mill. By the time I was 18, I owned 15 horses along with saddles, bridles and halters. I rented the horses out on the weekends."

Harry's love for his mother, Mary Ella, his step-father, Leo Whitecrane and his deeply religious Tangle Yellow Hair grandparents, taught him respect for elders and how to pray to Maheo, Creator God, one of the greatest lessons he ever learned.

After graduating from school at St. Labre Mission, Harry was about to enter Carroll College when he was drafted into the Army. He wasn't thrilled. "The sooner I go, the sooner I'll come home," he told friends. The greatest heartbreak came at his sad farewell to his elderly grandma and grandpa. Before Harry left, his family gathered to pray for his safety in war and for his safe return. The young man carried their prayers for him into war. He was the first American Indian to have his religion, "Native American Church" inscribed on his dog tags.



*Father Emmett and Harry Little Bird lead an honor dance. CA. 1960S*

After the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Harry changed his mind about war. He was glad to be shipped overseas with the 3rd Infantry Division, 15th "Can Do" Regiment. In 1942, under the overall command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, 650 warships struck the "Torch"

*continued...*

beach landings of the North African Campaign. Harry had the honor of carrying the American flag into the first victorious battle.

In 1943, Harry fought in the liberation of Anzio, Italy. He sustained a serious leg wound but kept fighting, his division suffering 900 casualties in one day. Of the 14 U.S. divisions, the 3rd Division "saw the most combat, inflicted the most damage and took the most casualties in the war."

Harry served as a scout for reconnaissance missions. His agility and his ability to think fast kept him from getting killed when he discovered a hidden, enemy force waiting to ambush his battalion. Despite his wound, Harry braved sniper fire to reach his men in time to prevent their annihilation. The company history describes the fighting as "...the bit-

terest, most heartbreaking, most cursed battlefield of the longest-fought (30 months) campaign in Europe." The 3rd covered a trail of 3,200 miles. Through seven countries and 8 campaigns they waded in waist high water, then heavy mud and snow storms, raked by mortars, artillery, tank and machine gun fire. They "destroyed 3 enemy divisions, mauled 3 more, captured 4,000 prisoners and inflicted 7,500 enemy casualties."

After the war ended, Harry received an honorable discharge and came home to the wildflowers and pine-covered hills of his peaceful reservation. To prevent the trauma of "shell shock," his family quickly took him into prayer ceremonies that cleared his mind of death, guilt and bad dreams. He became a member of the Elk Scraper Society and was a traditional Sundancer.

Harry resumed his education and was the first Indian graduate from Billings Business College. He married Annie Joyce King and they became the proud parents of 5 sons, seven daughters and 3 adopted sons. In his long career, Harry served as a tribal councilman, tribal secretary and a Range Specialist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. His ability to use business shorthand amazed people. A chief of the Northern Cheyenne Council of 44

said of him: "When we need somebody to back us up, Harry does our bookwork and he interprets for us. It's good to have him here." Harry was humble enough to do small things that nobody else wanted to do.

After he returned from "The Big One," as Harry called World War II, he was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, General Citation and the Purple Heart. He earned the Silver Star for "...gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States ... performed with marked distinction." The story of his heroism, however, is doubly meaningful because he never bragged about his service to his country. To this day, his children

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*...he never bragged about  
his service to his country.  
To this day, his children  
know few details of their  
father's bravery.*

---

know few details of their father's bravery. The only thing he bragged about was his 3rd Division champion baseball team!

Harry was not a chief, nor was he a tribal chairman, but as his long-time friend, Father Emmett Hoffmann, said of him: "Harry was will-

ing to help anyone and he always spoke and acted with confidence." The former soldier wouldn't give up on a project and he didn't expect thanks for a job well done.

Fifty years after World War II, Harry still suffered from his leg wound, but he didn't complain. He also didn't tell his family that for the last 15 years of his life, he had diabetes. Maybe he thought that diabetes was nothing compared to what he'd seen in war.

It was Harry's incredible stamina, intelligence, deep religious faith and the knowledge that he was protecting his tribe and his country that carried him through. On March 3, 1996, Harry P. Littlebird, a true American hero, passed on. Although he achieved military distinction, Harry would have been happy to be remembered as a good team player. 🐾

HISTORY OF THE 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION

HISTORY OF THE 15TH "CAN DO" REGIMENT

TAPED INTERVIEW WITH HARRY – 1973

SOCIETY OF THE 3RD ID WEBSITE

INTERVIEW WITH HARRY'S SON, GLENN LITTLEBIRD

CHIEF PROSECUTOR, NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE

# Soaring Eagle Societies

Soaring Eagle has established societies to give proper recognition for outstanding gifts that have been given for the construction of the Heritage Living Center. Each society shows the level of donors and our gratitude for their generosity.

## *American Eagle Society* \$25,000 & up

Carl J. Schwerin

## *Spirit Coming Home Society* \$10,000 to \$24,999

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Donors who contributed \$100 or more between January 1, 2006 through April 30, 2006 were enrolled in the Dawn of Hope Society. They received a beautiful personalized certificate suitable for framing. **Thank you for your generous and caring gifts.**





*Sylvia and Eva making plans for the day.*



*Enjoying a meal with visiting family members.*

## Soaring Eagle Charitable Gift Annuities

Did you know that with a Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity you will be helping the Northern Cheyenne elders and also receive income payments for the rest of your life?

One of Soaring Eagle's donors, Mary Ellen, is a 79 year-old widow who owns common stock in a company that pays her a dividend of 2 percent a year. This means her \$20,000 worth of stock provides her with a quarterly check of only \$100.

A better investment alternative for Mary Ellen would be to gift her stock to Soaring Eagle and purchase a Charitable Gift Annuity. Based upon her age, the interest rate of return for her gift annuity is 8.6%. She will receive \$430 income each quarter, equaling \$1,720 a year for the rest of her life. An additional benefit is that approximately two-thirds of her payments every year would be tax-free for the next 10 years. She will also qualify for a federal income tax deduction at the time of her gift of \$9,001.

Also, Mary Ellen will not have to pay the capital gains tax on any appreciated value of her stock that she would owe if she sold it. And depending upon her estate

valuation; the gift of stock for a charitable annuity can reduce her future death taxes.

A charitable gift annuity is a beautiful way to make a donation that helps Soaring Eagle provide care for the Northern Cheyenne elders, while securing a high rate of return on your investment for life. Best of all, it is simple to do. You don't have to be an expert at stocks, bonds or estate planning. This popular gift instrument is straight forward and user friendly.

Fixed income payments for life, an income tax deduction for itemizers, partial bypass of capital gains tax, possible reduction of estate taxes – these and other benefits make the Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity a smart option for many of our older friends. In fact, we find many of our donors obtain additional annuities as they get older because of the higher interest income rates they receive.

Learn more about the Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity. Please fill in the attached annuity coupon if you are interested in a personal proposal showing how a Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity can work for you.

# GUIDELINES

## TO HELP YOU WHEN YOU'RE PREPARING YOUR WILL

**YOUR WILL** says directly and very clearly what your wishes, dreams and purposes are. An up-to-date Will is more than a legal document – it is truly a sign of your stewardship and concern for others.

**YOUR WILL** is also a symbol of your wise and responsible stewardship. When you prepare your Will, you are not confining your resources to your own generation. You free yourself up to live in God's world which is far bigger than any one person's life history.

**YOUR WILL** can also be a symbol of your concern for others and a way of seeing that Soaring Eagle's Heritage Living Center and other worthy organizations are able to continue functioning and care for those who lack sufficient resources of their own.

### A SOARING EAGLE ANNUITY OUT-PERFORMS A CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT. LET'S COMPARE...\*

Soaring Eagle Annuity		Certificate of Deposit
\$20,000	Contract Amount	\$20,000
8.6%	Rate of Return	4.5%
\$9,001	Charitable Deduction (Yr. 1)	\$0
\$609/yr	Taxable Income	\$900/yr
\$1,720/yr	Gross Annual Income	\$900/yr

\*Illustration is based on a person 79 years old. Soaring Eagle Annuity Contracts are irrevocable resulting in a large contribution which can greatly reduce income taxes. The CD is based upon a current two year rate.



## Your Gift Lives On

Please use one of the following sample forms of bequest:

A. (Whatever is left after other bequests have been granted) "All the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, I bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the Laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana."

B. "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the Laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana, \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate."

C. "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the Laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_."

D. "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the Laws of the State of Montana, located at 745 Indian Trail, P.O. Drawer 879 in Billings, Montana, 59103, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the Wall of Living Memories Fund, to care for Cheyenne elders, the principal of which shall remain in perpetuity."

These are sample forms only. Consult your attorney when preparing any legal document.

DETACH, MOISTEN GLUE STRIP AND SEAL

**YES**, I'm interested in a Soaring Eagle Charitable Gift Annuity. The better rate of return, tax deduction and eventual charitable contribution to Soaring Eagle sounds like a WIN WIN WIN opportunity.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date(s) of annuitant \_\_\_\_\_

Annuity Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(up to 2 names/birth dates allowed per annuity.)

This is a non-binding proposal. Upon receipt of actual payment for an annuity, a formal contract will be mailed. For more information call (406) 256-8500.





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*The earth awakens, bringing with it a colorful floral feast for the eyes near the Heritage Living Center.*

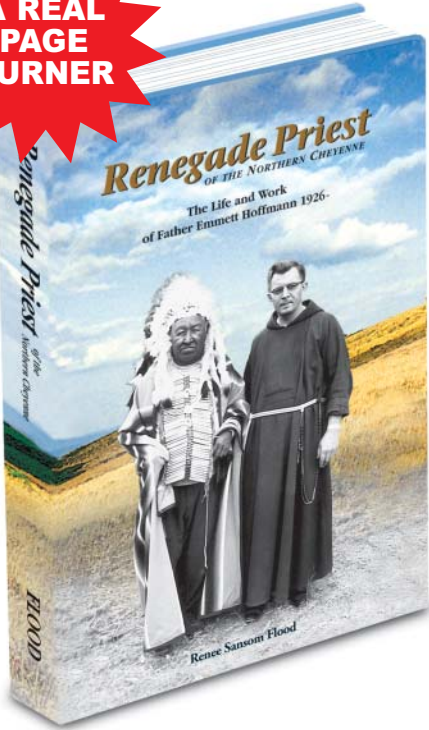




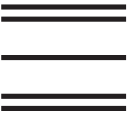
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Soaring Eagle

Important Days We Want to Remember in Our Prayers

You are in our prayers each day and we want to remember your loved ones on their special days as well.  
Please print the name(s) you want remembered and return in the envelope provided.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birthday\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birthday\_\_\_\_\_

Deceased\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death\_\_\_\_\_

Deceased\_\_\_\_\_

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