January 16, 2025

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren

United States Senate

309 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the Remove the Stain Act

Dear Honorable Senator Warren:

In honor of our matriarch, we, the family of the late Marcella Ryan LeBeau, express our support for the passage of SB107 Remove the Stain Act to rescind the medals of honor that were awarded to the 7th Cavalry soldiers for the massacre at Wounded Knee Creek in 1890. Marcella Ryan LeBeau, our mother and grandmother, was a strong supporter of the SB107 Remove the Stain Act. She stood with Hawk 1890, Tribal Nations, Four Directions, and the descendants of the Wounded Knee Massacre. As a proud World War II veteran, she knew the honor and privilege of serving our country and was saddened the medals had not been rescinded. She believed the medals given to the 7th Calvary do not reflect the values of the military and its service members.

She traveled to Washington, D.C. in 2019 to meet congressional representatives to testify in support of the Act, asked presidential candidates if they would support the bill in 2019 at the Frank Lamere Native American Presidential Forum, wrote letters of support, and educated others about the importance of this work. As far back as when she served on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council, she supported the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council resolutions to revoke the medals of honor. All to no avail.

In many of her addresses, our matriarch said, “In my opinion, there is a pervasive sadness that exists on our reservation, the Cheyenne River reservation in South Dakota. There has never been closure to the horrific unprovoked massacre at Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge reservation.” She recognized healing can start from acknowledging a wrong had been committed, which is why she fought so hard for the passage of the Act.

Our matriarch has left a legacy of solidarity in our hearts. We are grateful for those that stand together to push the passage of the Remove The Stain Act. She continues to stand behind us saying:

> *"Revoke the 20 medals of honor that were awarded for bravery for the massacre at Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota in 1890. As there is no bravery in the massacre of innocent unarmed men, women and children and their leader who was lying there helplessly suffering from pneumonia all under a white flag of truce."*
> - Marcella Ryan LeBeau

We hoped our matriarch would have been able to see the medals revoked within her lifetime. Join us in honoring all her efforts and hard work by rescinding the medals. We want future generations to be happy, healthy, and healed. Acknowledging the wrongs and taking steps like passing the Remove the Stain Act can help with healing. Rescind the 20 medals.

- The family of the late Marcella Ryan LeBeau, *Wigmunke Was'te' Win* (Pretty Rainbow Woman)