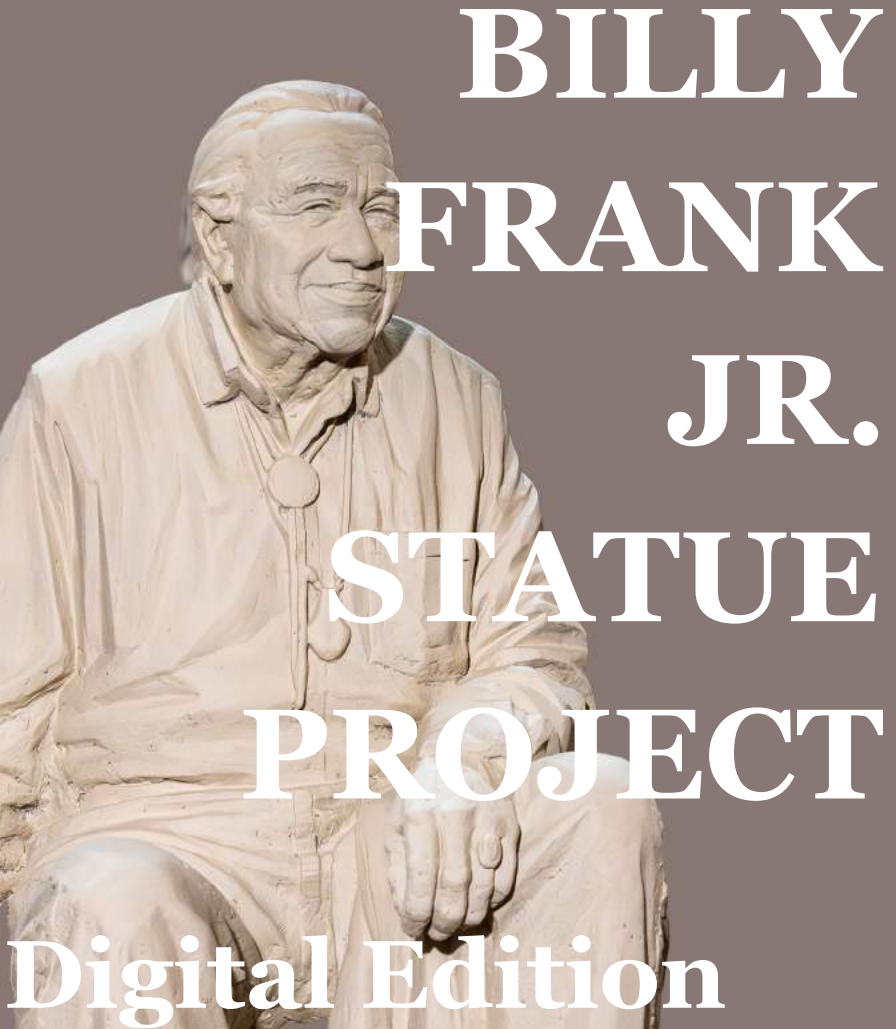


Lobby of Lt. Governor's Office
2nd Floor, State Capitol Building



BILLY

FRANK

JR.

STATUE

PROJECT

Digital Edition



Billy Frank Jr.

Billy Frank Jr. was born on March 9, 1931, on the banks of the Nisqually river in Washington. A Nisqually tribal member, Billy fought tirelessly to ensure that the United States government would honor the promises made in the treaties with Washington tribes.

He was arrested more than 50 times for exercising his treaty-protected right to fish for salmon, a right that had been reserved in the treaty of Medicine Creek.

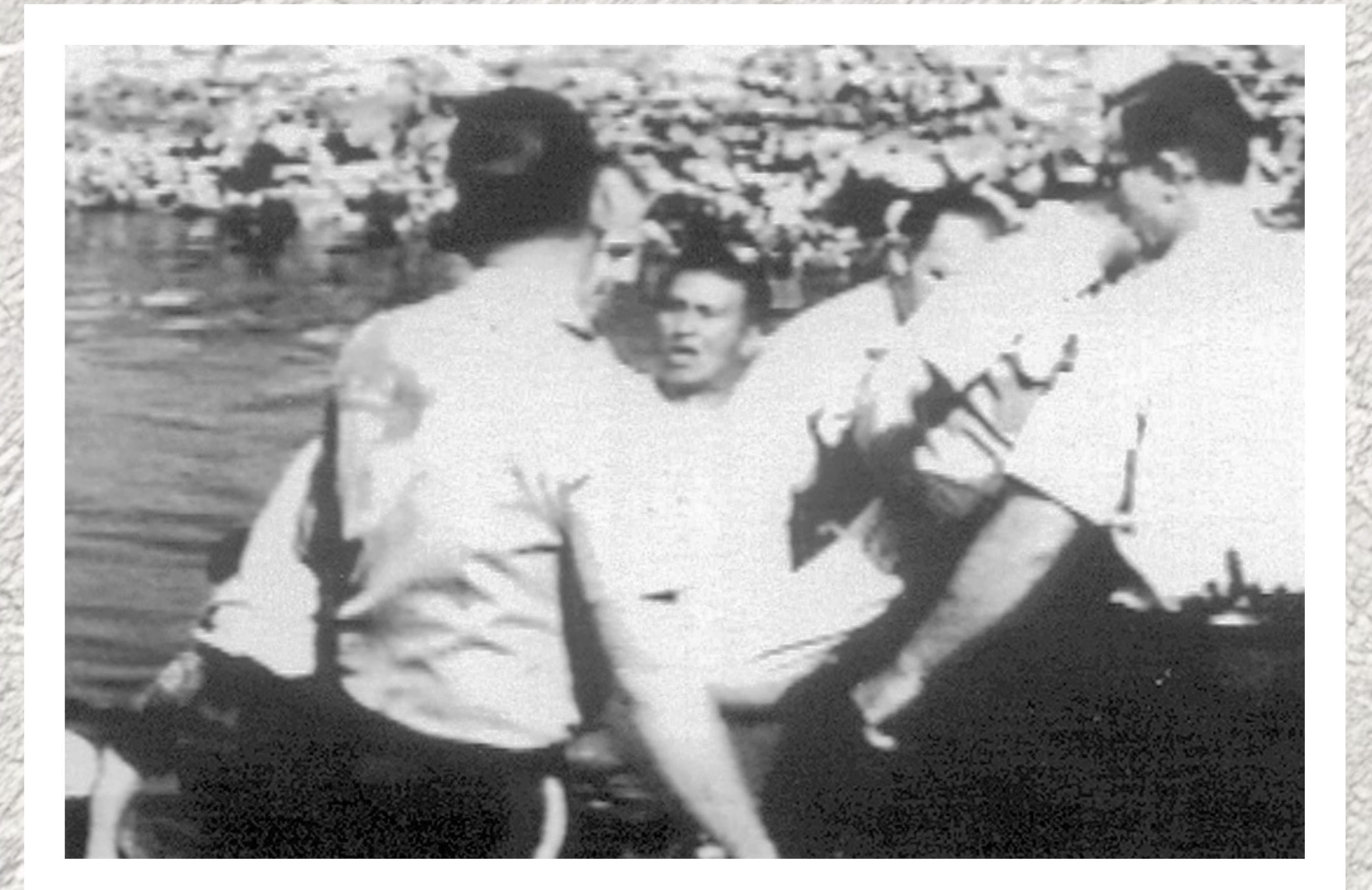
His activism and perseverance paved the way for the “Boldt decision” in *United States v. Washington*, which affirmed the rights of Washington treaty tribes.

The impact of Billy’s activism spread far beyond Washington State. Billy was recognized with the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism, the Washington State Environmental Excellence Award, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.



I don't believe in magic. I believe in the sun and the stars, the water, the tides, the floods, the owls, the hawks flying, the river running, the wind talking. They're measurements. They tell us how healthy things are. How healthy we are. Because we and they are the same.

Billy Frank Jr.: a Timeline



- 1931** Born on March 9 to Willie Frank Sr. (Qui-Lash-Kut) and Angeline Frank
- 1945** At 14 years old, Billy was arrested for the first time for fishing off reservation in his family's traditional fishing area on the Nisqually River.
- 1952** At age 21, Billy joined the U.S. Marines, where he serves for two years.
- 1963** The Washington departments of Fisheries and Game established state authority to prohibit net fishing by Indians in off-reservation rivers.
- 1963-1970** Tribal citizens organized fish-ins to protest the violation of their treaty-protected rights. A self-proclaimed "getting arrested guy," Billy went to jail more than 50 times for fishing off-reservation and became a leader in the fight for tribal treaty rights.
- 1970** The United States government sued the state of Washington on behalf of the tribes for violating their treaty-protected right to fish.
- 1974** Federal Judge George Boldt issued his decision in U.S. v. Washington, upholding tribes' right to 50% of salmon, steelhead and other fish, and establishing them as co-managers of the fisheries.
- 1974** Tribal leaders created the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission to give "the treaty tribes the capability of speaking with a single voice on fisheries management and conservation matters."
- 1977** Billy was elected to represent Medicine Creek Treaty tribes on the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. "The fighting, that is, the fish-ins and demonstrations, is over now, I hope. My past is in the past; I'm looking forward to what will happen in the next 10 years as far as the development of the resource is concerned." He served on the commission for the rest of his life, most of those years as chairman.
- 1977** As the Nisqually Tribe's fisheries manager, Billy led the effort to restore flow to the Nisqually River. More than a decade later, the city of Tacoma built fish ladders on Alder Dam and agreed to provide instream flows for fish and pay for environmental damages.
- 1977** The Nisqually Tribe opened the Kalama Creek Fish Hatchery on the Nisqually River.
- 1987** Billy was awarded the Washington State Environmental Excellence Award from the state Ecological Commission.
- 1988** Billy's commitment to forging relationships with other natural resources managers led to the Timber/Fish/Wildlife Agreement, a cooperative science-based management approach ensuring a healthy timber industry while also protecting fish and wildlife.
- 1989** Federally recognized tribes in Washington signed the Centennial Accord with Gov. Booth Gardner to provide a framework for a "government to government relationship and implementation procedures to assure execution of that relationship."
- 1991** The Nisqually Tribe built the Clear Creek Hatchery on lands within Joint Base Lewis-McChord that had been taken from the Nisqually Reservation by the city of Tacoma.
- 1992** Billy was awarded the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism for exemplary contributions to humanity and the environment.
- 1994** Judge Edward Rafeedie ruled in a subproceeding of *U.S. v. Washington* that the tribal treaty right to harvest includes shellfish on public and private tidelands.
- 2001** Under Billy's leadership, treaty tribes filed suit for the court to determine the state of Washington has a treaty-based duty to preserve fish runs and habitat, seeking to compel the state to repair or replace culverts that impede salmon migration.
- 2006** The University of Colorado at Boulder's Center of the American West awarded Billy with the Wallace Stegner Award for his contribution to the cultural identity of the West.
- 2012** Billy testified before the Senate of Indian Affairs Committee on Climate Change.
- 2007** Puget Sound commercial shellfish growers and 17 treaty tribes in western Washington signed the Shellfish Agreement to address treaty shellfish harvest rights, preserve the health of the shellfish industry and provide greater shellfish harvest opportunities for everyone in the state.
- 2007** Federal district court ruled that state culverts that block fish and diminish salmon runs violate treaty fishing rights.
- 2010** Billy led the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, calling on the federal government to meet its obligation as trustee to align its agencies to protect treaty rights and lead a better coordinated salmon recovery effort.
- 2013-2018** Federal district court ordered the state to significantly increase the effort to remove and replace state-owned culverts that block habitat for salmon and steelhead by 2030. The state appealed the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld the decision in 2018.
- 2014** May 2014 - Billy Frank Jr. walks on at the age of 83.
- 2015** President Obama posthumously awarded Billy with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.
- 2016** Billy Frank Jr. was inducted into the National Native American Hall of Fame for his advocacy as a Native American rights and environmental leader.
- 2021** Washington state passed legislation for a statue of Billy to represent the state in the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.
- 2023** The U.S. Navy announced plans to name a Navajo-class towing, salvage and rescue ship after Billy, in recognition of his service in the U.S. Marine Corps and his leadership in the fight for treaty rights. It will be the first ship named after an individual Native American.



"Today, thanks to his courage and determined effort, our resources are better protected, and more tribes are able to enjoy the rights preserved for them more than a century ago. Billy never stopped fighting to make sure future generations would be able to enjoy the outdoors as he did, and his passion on the issue of climate change should serve as an inspiration to us all." - President Barack Obama



Nisqually Chairman Willie Frank III and his wife, Peggen Frank, executive director of Salmon Defense, add their initials to a keel plate that will be placed in the USNS Billy Frank Jr.

Installing the statue

January, 2021

Rep. Debra Lekanoff introduces legislation to install a statue of Billy Frank Jr. in National Statuary Hall.

March, 2022

The Billy Frank Jr. National Statuary Hall Selection Committee holds its first meeting.

The Architect of the Capitol approves the design.

April 14, 2021

Governor Jay Inslee signs House Bill 1372 into law.

February, 2023

The Committee announces the selection of artist Haiying Wu.

The statue of Billy Frank Jr. is installed in Washington, D.C.



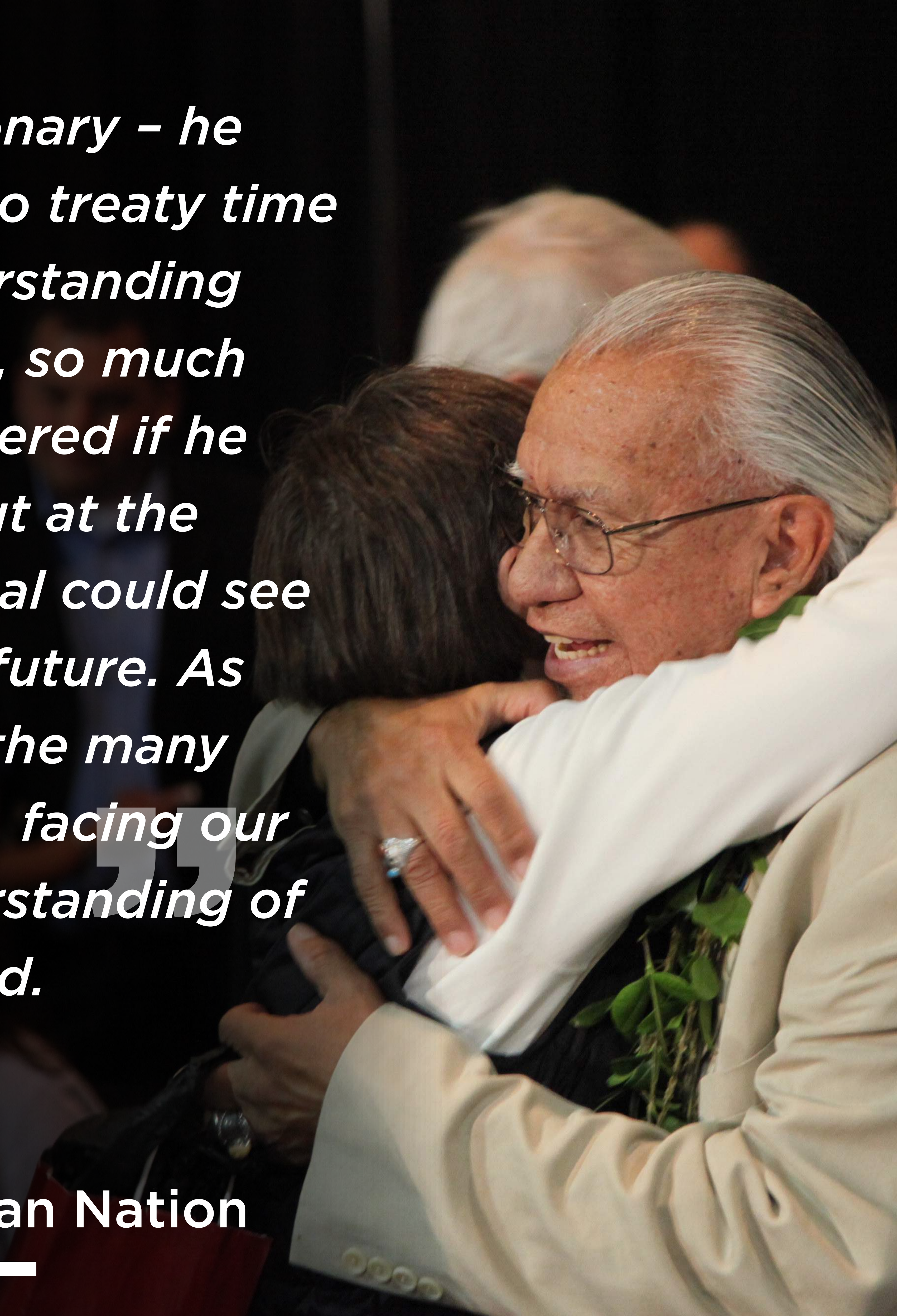
“Billy taught us when to listen and when to stand firm. He displayed moral courage in the face of unfairness and brought people of different cultures together around the importance of sustaining the natural world around us.”

**- Denny Heck
Washington Lt. Governor**

I saw Billy as a historic visionary – he had this ability to go back to treaty time and had an incredible understanding of what those words meant, so much to that point so that I wondered if he was there 150 years ago. But at the same time this one individual could see seven generations into the future. As a visionary, he understood the many challenges facing humanity, facing our generation. It was his understanding of how all things are connected.

- Fawn Sharp

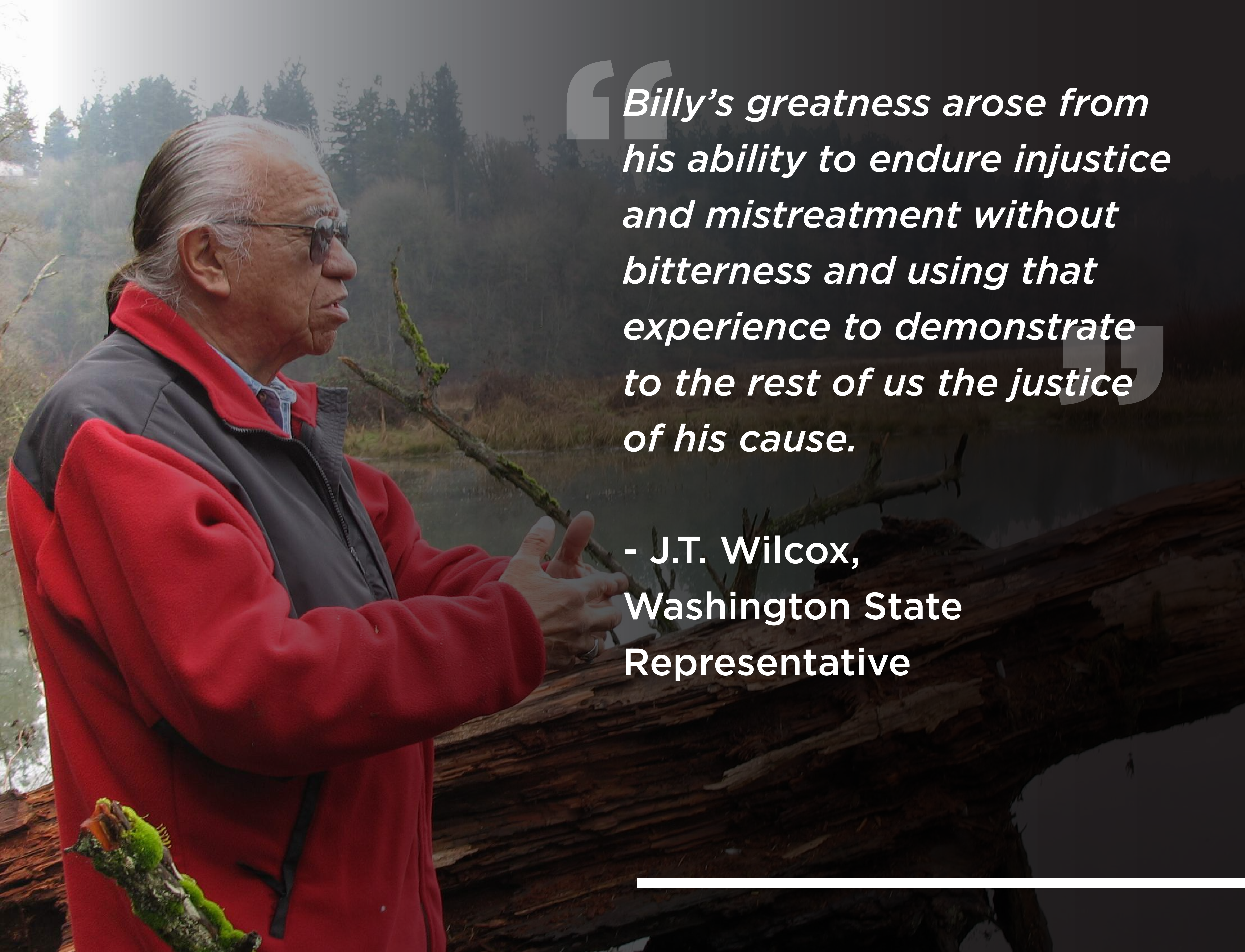
Vice President, Quinalt Indian Nation



“He taught us to listen. He taught us not only to read the treaties but to listen to the treaties because when we listen, our ancestors, our elders are telling us something.”

**- John McCoy
Tulalip Tribes,
Washington State Senator**





Billy's greatness arose from his ability to endure injustice and mistreatment without bitterness and using that experience to demonstrate to the rest of us the justice of his cause.

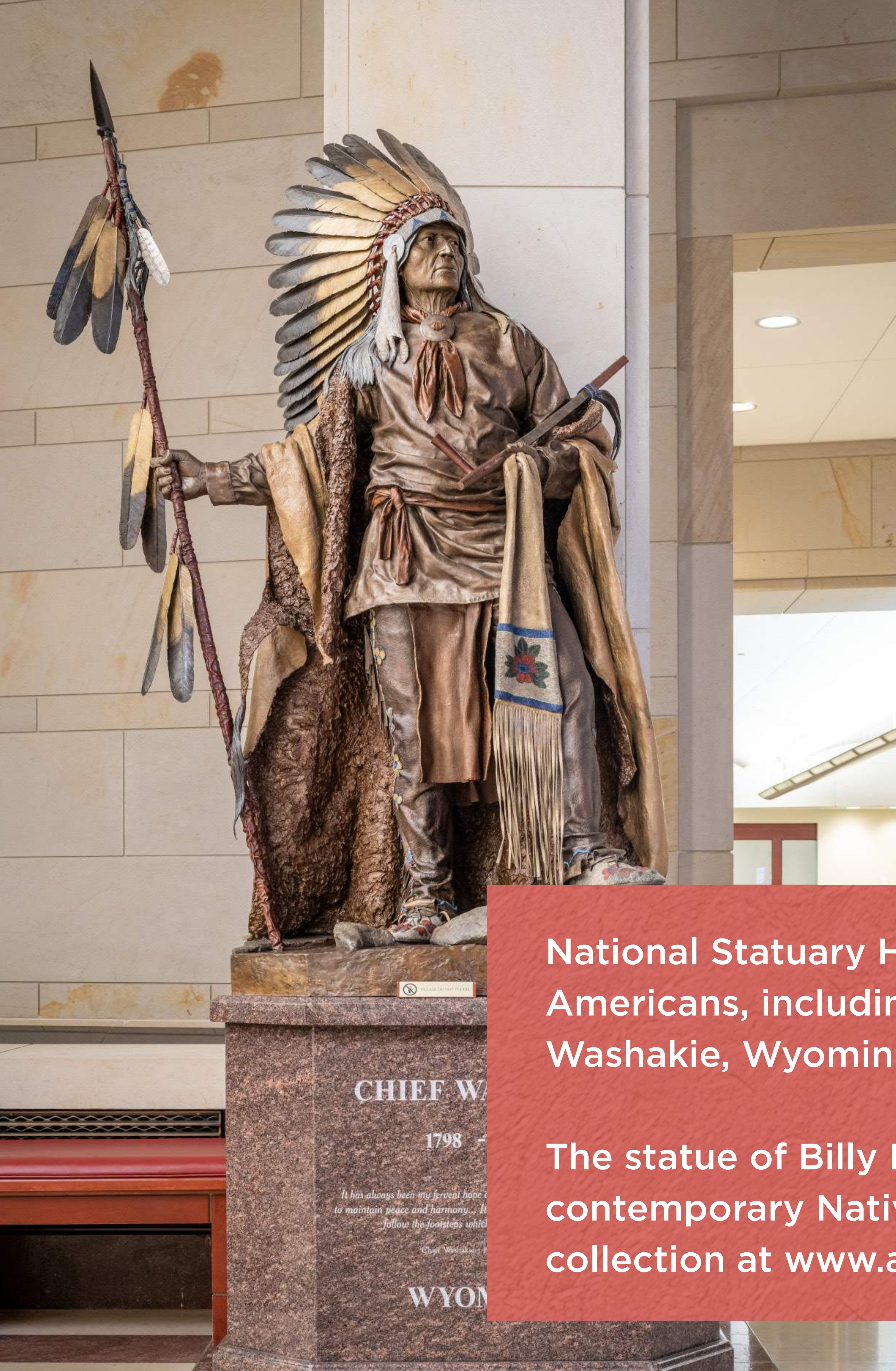
**- J.T. Wilcox,
Washington State
Representative**

National Statuary Hall Collection

A photograph of the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol. The room is filled with numerous bronze statues of men in various poses, standing on pedestals. The room features tall, grey marble columns and red drapery with gold fringe. The floor is a black and white checkered pattern. The ceiling is ornate with gold accents.

National Statuary Hall was founded in 1864 from a proposal by Representative Justin S. Morrill. The entire collection consists of 100 statues contributed by 50 states, with two statues each.

Each statue is the gift of a state. When the donated statue arrives at the Capitol, it is placed in a location specified by the Joint Committee on the Library.



National Statuary Hall currently features 8 statues of Native Americans, including those pictured here (Left: Chief Washakie, Wyoming; right: Chief Standing Bear, Nebraska).

The statue of Billy Frank Jr. will be the first to depict a contemporary Native American. Learn more about the collection at www.aoc.gov.

CHIEF W

1798

*It has always been my fervent hope
to maintain peace and harmony. It
follows the footsteps which*

Chief Washakie

WYOM

c.1829-1908

The Legislation: House Bill 1372

Introduced by Representative Debra Lekanoff and signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee at Frank's Landing on April 14, 2021, House Bill 1372 affirms that "Billy Frank Jr. is a significant historical and civil rights figure who is worthy of recognition and inclusion in the national statuary hall collection." This bill began the process to send a statue of Billy Frank Jr. to National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C.



The Billy Frank Jr. National Statuary Hall Selection Committee

House Bill 1372 called for the formation of a committee to oversee the process for selecting an artist and engaging the public. The committee includes representatives from Billy Frank Jr.'s family, the Washington State Legislature, the Governor's office, the Washington State Arts Commission, and more. This committee issued a call for artists in 2021, which led to the selection of artist Haiying Wu.



The Design Process

January, 2023

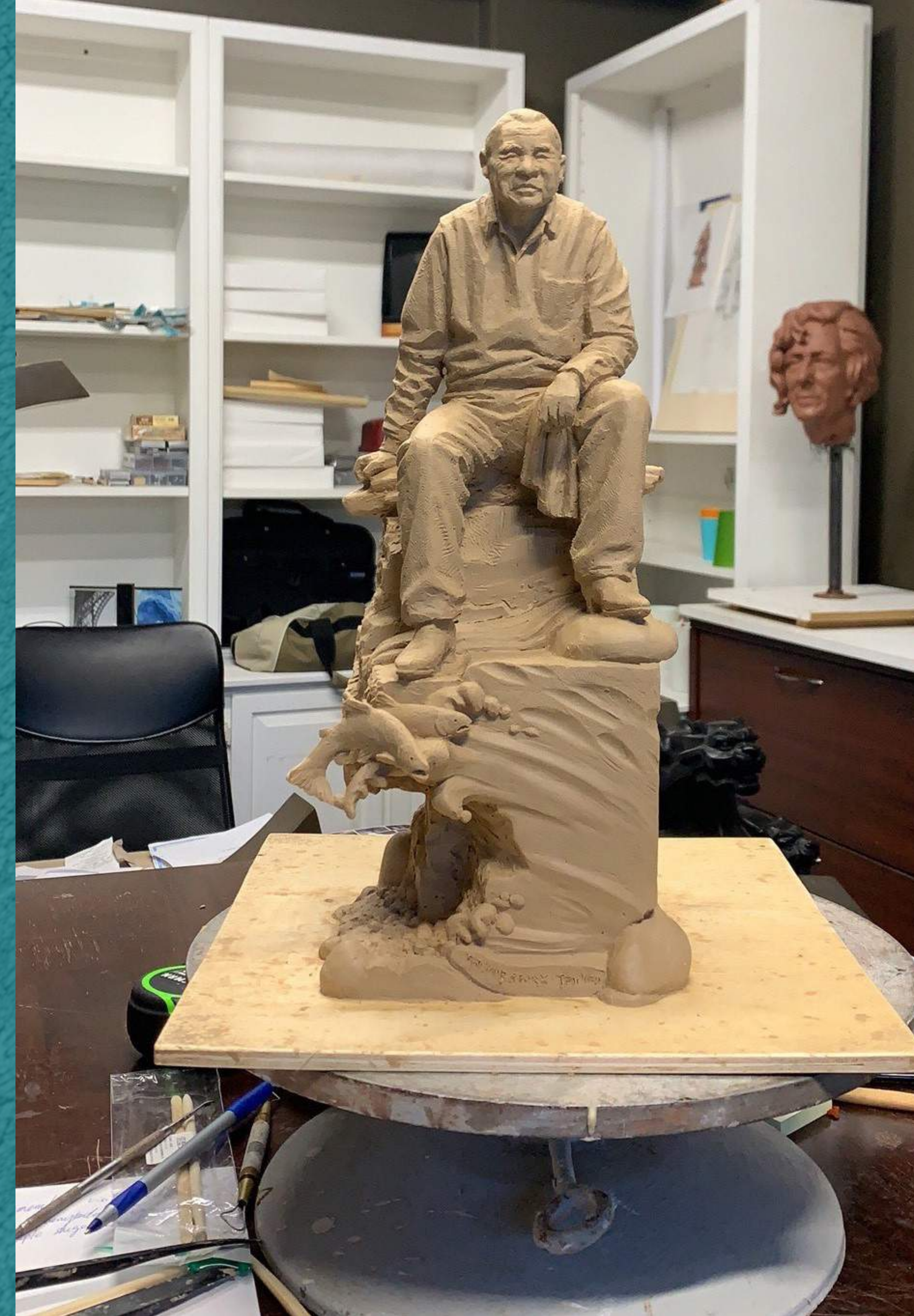
Artist Haiying Wu presented a concept drawing (left) to the Billy Frank Jr. National Statuary Hall Selection Committee, who chose Haiying for the project on the strength of his concept.

The Committee felt that Haiying's proposal captured Billy Frank Jr.'s warmth and personality through his smile and posture, in addition to important details such as regalia, leaping salmon, and his placement seated by the riverside.

TELL YOUR STORY

BILLY FRANK JR.
1931-2014

ARTSWA
WASHINGTON STATE
ARTS COMMISSION

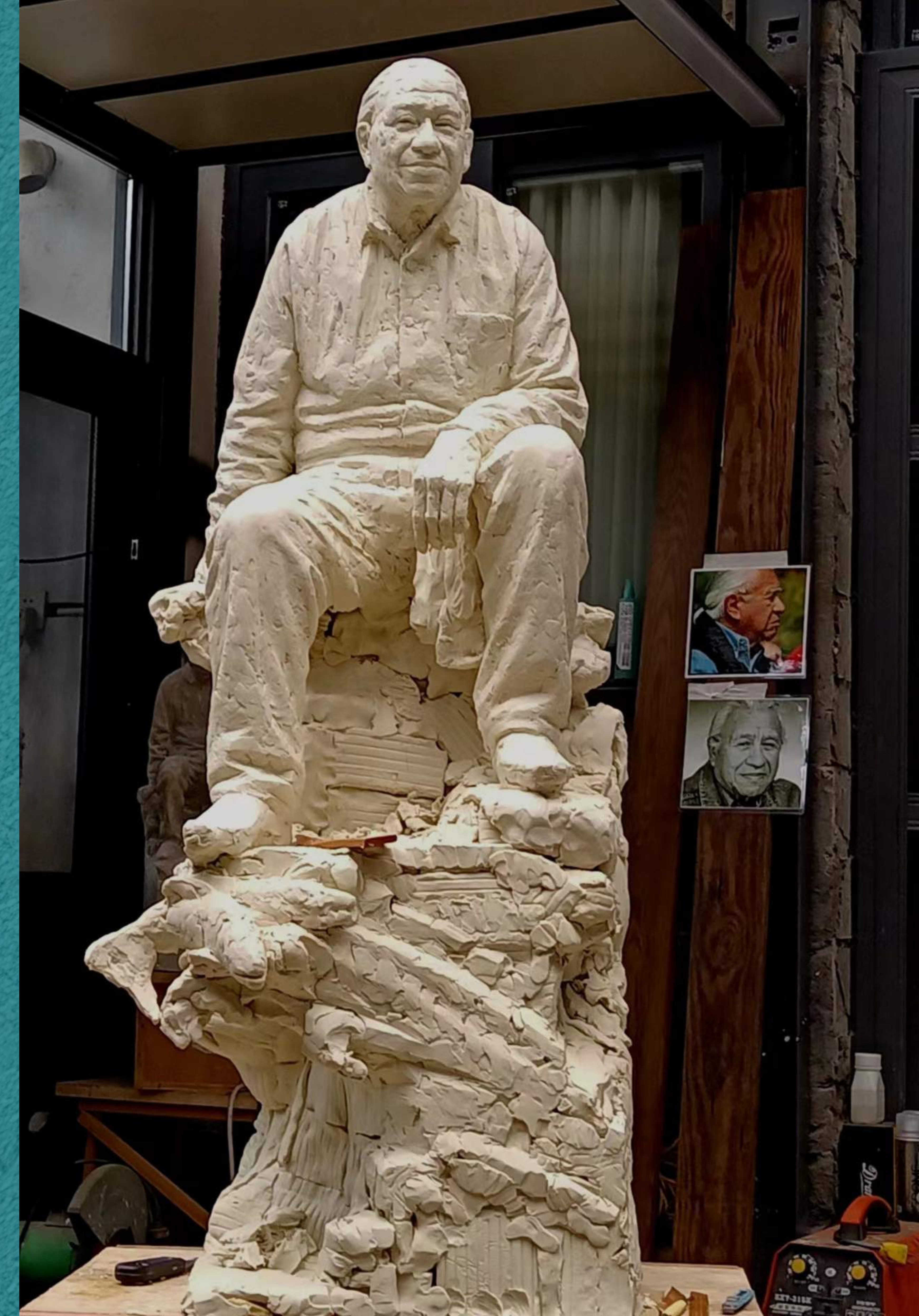


May, 2023

Haiying began by sculpting a small-scale model (above) to understand the proportions, gesture, and the arrangement of the different elements.

October, 2023

Haiying next built a "maquette" (below, center), a larger model that can explore finer details in the statue. He used armature (below, left) to understand the figure's gesture at a larger scale. The maquette must next be approved by the Architect of the Capitol before being developed into a full-scale clay statue, which will then be cast in bronze.



The Artist: Haiying Wu

Haiying Wu was born in China and attended the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute. He worked as a sculptor and created public artworks in China.

Wu immigrated to the United States and received his Master of Fine Arts in sculpture from the University of Washington.

He has created well known memorials around the Pacific Northwest, including the Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Seattle's Pioneer Square neighborhood.



Haiying Wu's Seattle Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial, 1998, located in Seattle, Washington.



“The worship of life and nature in Indian culture is in line with my own cultural traditions. I am honored to have this opportunity to understand more of the spiritual world of Indigenous people, and of their efforts to preserve the beautiful skies, rivers, oceans and all living things.”