

## A Message to You

Dear Mrs. Ivy Julia Cromartie Stranahan,

It is nearing the end of 2020, but I can still vividly hear the voices of joy when the last moments of 2019 came to an end, happily shouting, “Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one... Happy New Year!” We were oblivious of what was to come. Thrilled for the start of a new decade, we hoped for a year like no other. Well, we got our wish.

The subsequent events of 2020 threw the world into a spiral of new realities. Forcing humanity to expose themselves to new ways of life, for many, this was frightening. It can confidently be said that 2020 was a year of adjusting. Knowing your story in 2020, makes it so inspiring to know how you were able to help the Seminole Indians adjust to a new way of life; you helped the Seminoles adjust to *their* 2020. The leadership that you demonstrated encourages everyone who hears your story, remember how resilient humanity is. In 2020, we all need that reminder.

However, as if the adjustments weren't enough, 2020 made America open our eyes, and assess if we are really the *United States* of America. Americans constantly face the eternal battle of what they believe in, and whom they support. Nevertheless, when you were faced with the ever-growing world surrounding the Seminoles, you wouldn't stand by and wait to see if everyone coexisted. You brought together these societies, and allowed for a more accepting, and inevitably, a greater world. Sometimes, we just need to stop, and understand that we are all unique, and each one of us has a talent, and a purpose. You valued the differences, and so should everyone.

Admiringly, you helped change the world in a time when differences were commonly looked down upon. Being a woman in the early 1900s in America, you helped fight for what was right. You supported equal rights- voting rights. Thanks to you, and so many other

ambitious individuals, millions of Americans have the right to vote in 2020. You stood up for giving everyone a say; allowing everyone to voice their unique, and valuable opinions.

Your tremendous impact has helped me realize that all we need in 2020, is the supportive hand, guiding light, and the kindness of each other. Thank you for your influence that has radiated around the world, making 2020 a little brighter.

Warm Regards,

An Inspired Citizen of Florida