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**SPEAKING UPON THE EARTH: THE THUNDERING VOICE
OF N. SCOTT MOMADAY**

It is probably a matter of fate Kiowawriter N. Scott Momaday was born with a voice that would become the deeply sonorous means of carrying his words to the four directions. Identified from six month of age with a bear boy of Kiowa mythology, it is no wonder that he acquired the fullness and depth of Bear's honeyed roar, as well as the power of a sudden storm breaking upon the Great Plains. It is widely recognized that Momaday's voice is distinctly an ancient voice that carries tribal knowledge of thousands of years of spiritual experience upon the continents of North America and Asia. As he acknowledges, his blood memory, coupled with his imagination, readily transport him back through time into the Arctic tundra near the Chukchi Sea. These gifts of heritage prepared Momaday to Become a brilliant creative artist who in 1969 was awarded the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his novel *House Made of Dawn* (1968).

Acknowledged worldwide as the founder of contemporary Native American Literature, due to publication of his seminal books, N. Scott Momaday remains a leading voice of Indigenous literature. Notable books include *The Way to Rainy Mountain* (1969), *The Names* (1976), *The Ancient Child* (1989), *In the Presence of the Sun* (1992), *The Man Made of Words* (1997), *In the Bear's House* (1999), and *Three Plays* (2007). These plays – *The Indolent Boys*, *Children of the Sun*, and *The Moon in Two Windows* – span subjects from tribal mythology to the devastating impact of the boarding schools on American Indian children. Many of these books are selfillustrated. Among numerous high honors, Momaday has received designation as a UNESCO Artist for Peace (2004), and the National Medal of Arts, presented by the President of the United States (2007). He is the recipient of twenty Honorary university degrees. Momaday's writing has been translated into French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish. As founder and chairman of The Buffalo Trust, Scott Momaday is devoted to the preservation and

restoration of indigenous culture and heritage for Native American, Alaskan Native, and Native Siberian youth.

Although he identifies as a poet, Momaday is also well known for his fiction, essays and art. With a career spanning six decades, he has continued to develop his written, verbal, and visual art in exciting new ways. In many respects Momaday has carried forth themes from his heritage and childhood throughout the span of his lifetime. Paramount is the image of the bear that embodies the spirit of wilderness and links Momaday to his ursine and human and relatives. From 2016-2018 Momaday has been prolific in unusual ways. From publishing a new book of poetry, to being featured in two significant films, to being a speaker on stage in dialogues about the global environment, Momaday has expressed his spiritual insights and convictions about the necessity of living close to the earth.