NNWO Deputy Executive Director Provides Reflective Comments at Dr. Jane Goodall Memorial Service

Deputy Executive Director DeWayne Crank delivering remarks at the memorial. Photo Courtesy of AP news.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Wednesday, November 12, 2025, NNWO Deputy Executive Director DeWayne Crank provided reflective comments at the Memorial Service for renowned Primatologist and Anthropologist Dr. Jane Goodall.

Dr. Goodall was most well known for her work with chimpanzees and for pioneering the view that animals possessed complex minds capable of individuality, emotions, as well as creating and utilizing tools. In her advocacy, Dr. Goodall stressed the importance of the human species to recognize and respect the interconnectedness of all living things and urged her audiences to take action to make this world a better and more peaceful place.

In her reflections, Deputy Crank noted the shared commitments between many Indigenous peoples and Dr. Goodall such as the "deep respect for the natural world and to the recognition of Indigenous sovereignty and rights," as well as the shared acknowledgement that spiritual and cultural connections exist between humans, animals, and the environment.

Deputy Crank further highlighted that "[t]hrough the Jane Goodall Institute, [Dr. Goodall] has collaborated with Indigenous youth groups to promote environmental stewardship, celebrated Aboriginal knowledge systems, and publicly recognized Indigenous land and cultural rights – partnering with organizations such as the Institute of American Indian Arts."

Deputy Crank ended her reflections by offering a Navajo poem to those in the audience urging them to recognize and appreciate the beauty that surrounds them as they walk through this world.