

# The Mohegan Way

## Chief G'tinemong of the Mohegan Tribe

December 25, 1918 – October 1, 2007

Ralph Weston Sturges, who was elected Chief for Life of the Mohegan Tribe in 1991, was born on Christmas Day, 1918, in New London, Connecticut.

In the Mohegan language, his chief's name "G'tinemong" translates as "He Who Helps Thee." Throughout his life, he was guided by a fundamental code, which he often quoted — "Perseverance, Honor & Integrity."

As a young man, he enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps, where he helped to rebuild the southeastern Connecticut region following the devastating hurricane in 1938.

During the War, he was decorated by the U.S. Army in recognition of his service in the intelligence division in New Guinea and The Philippines.

With an unswerving regard for the welfare of his fellow Tribal members, Chief Sturges worked throughout the latter half of the 20th century for federal recognition of The Mohegan Tribe. He served as Mohegan Tribal Chairman from 1989–1996, where he helped to lead the effort that saw the rise of Mohegan Sun as its doors opened in 1996.



Photo: Bill Guda, Mohegan Tribal Publications

He also participated in the building's expansion in 2002 and was present at the groundbreaking of Project Horizon in the summer of 2007.

An avid sculptor and carver, Chief Sturges took pleasure and pride in his craft. His work not only was part of the cornerstone of Mohegan Sun, it can also be found in the state's capitol building, at New London's City Hall, and at Montville High School and at Uncas Elementary School in Norwich, Connecticut.

FALL 2007



# Letter From the Chairman

On October 5, 2007, the Mohegan Tribe held an extraordinary ceremony at our sacred burial site as we recalled and rejoiced in the life of our Great Leader — CHIEF RALPH STURGES.



Photo: Bill Guelfa, Mohegan Tribal Publications

Attended by more than 600 friends and admirers, including elected officials from the federal, state and local governments, we joined together to remember and celebrate the life of Chief Sturges, whose Mohegan name “G’tinemong” meant “He Who Helps Thee.”

It was a fitting name for Ralph Sturges because Chief Sturges was extremely dedicated to his wife, Ida, his family, his Tribe, his neighbors and to all the people who shared this earth with him.



Photo: Bill Guelfa, Mohegan Tribal Publications

As chief of the Mohegan Tribe, Ralph Sturges lived the fundamental creed of our people — to never forget the 13 generations that have come before us, nor our duty to the 13 generations yet to come.

In no small way, Chief Sturges personified our Mohegan belief in working with our neighbors to create a better world — not only for the members of our Tribe, but for all people. Here we call that commitment the Mohegan Way, and Chief Sturges lived it to the fullest each and every day of his life.

While we will miss our Chief dearly, we were all so very fortunate for the time that we had with him. We will walk for the rest of our days remembering his words of wisdom or recalling one of his great stories or lessons.

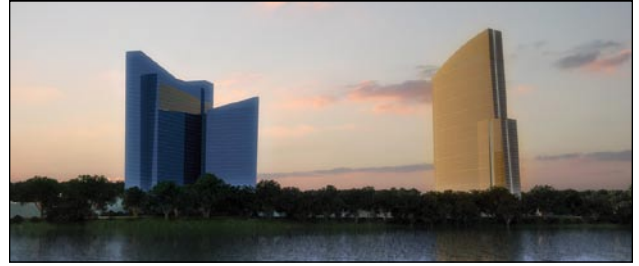
The Mohegan Tribe and Connecticut benefited greatly from Ralph Sturges, and with his passing we rededicate ourselves to the continued effort to make life better for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Bozsum".

**Chairman Bruce “Two Dogs” Bozsum  
on behalf of the entire Mohegan Tribal Council**

# Mohegan Sun: Project Horizon



Work has begun on Project Horizon, the Mohegan Tribe’s major expansion program at Mohegan Sun. With total construction costs estimated at \$740 million, the Tribe’s historic investment will create nearly 1,800 new construction jobs and provide over \$480 million in construction wages. It will also mean more than 1,500 permanent jobs and hundreds more in the new restaurants and shops that will be opening as part of Project Horizon.

According to a recent economic impact study conducted by the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, the Mohegan Tribe’s expansion program will also mean more jobs all across Connecticut’s economy, as vendors and suppliers ramp up to meet the increased demand for materials and services. In fact, according to the expert analysis, the construction program alone will create about 2,500 more jobs outside of Mohegan Sun, and there will be more than 1,800 additional new permanent jobs created throughout Connecticut once Project Horizon is complete.

Even before the Project Horizon expansion, the Mohegan Tribe and its Mohegan Sun was a major engine of economic growth and opportunity in the state. There are currently about 10,200 Mohegan Sun employees, and the Mohegan Tribe purchases about \$355 million from Connecticut companies that are based in over 130 of Connecticut’s 169 towns.

In addition, since Mohegan Sun opened in 1996, the Mohegan Tribe has contributed over \$1.7 billion to the Mohegan-Pequot Slots Fund, which is helping to pay for vital services in the state and in every community in Connecticut.

## **PROJECT HORIZON**

**Major new hotel**

**Nearly 1,000 more slot machines and table games**

**New restaurants and retail space**

**New theater and entertainment space**

**And more parking spaces for patrons**

# Cochegan Rock

The natural environment has always been important to the Mohegan people. A core Tribal value is the sacred belief that protecting Mother Earth is a vital responsibility for every member of the Tribe.

Over the past decade, the reacquisition and permanent protection of the Tribe's most historic sites has been one of the Mohegan Tribe's most important goals. **This past summer, the Mohegan Tribe was able to reacquire and will now permanently protect Cochegan Rock, which is also known to the Tribe as Council Rock.**

More than 300 years ago, the great Sachem Uncas held meetings of the Mohegan Tribal Council on Cochegan Rock. Important Mohegan Tribal Council meetings continued to be held at the rock until the 1920s. Believed to be the largest freestanding boulder in New England, Cochegan Rock has long been considered hallowed ground for the Mohegan Tribe.

Lost to the Tribe in the 18th Century, this past summer the Mohegan Tribe celebrated its successful effort to reacquire Cochegan Rock and the 94 acres surrounding the boulder. The Mohegan Tribe is now moving forward with plans to preserve the entire historic site.

When Europeans sought to settle in what is now southeastern Connecticut, Chief Uncas and the Mohegan Tribe made the historic decision to seek coexistence and cooperation with the settlers rather than rely on confrontation and war. Although the Mohegan Tribe was forced to sacrifice much of its lands in the ensuing years, the Tribe did manage to preserve enough



Photo: Bill Gerda, Mohegan Tribal Publications

autonomy to maintain its identity through modern times. The path Uncas chose eventually meant that the Mohegan Tribe survived through the various battles, theft of land and broken promises that wiped out neighboring Tribes.

However, over the centuries, some of the Tribe's most important cultural sites, like Cochegan Rock, were lost or stolen. In 1963, the property was donated to the Boy Scouts, who used it for camping trips over the past few decades. With ownership finally returned to the Mohegan Tribe, Tribal leaders are confident that they can not only permanently preserve the area, but will also be able to provide the Boy Scouts with continued access for their activities.

The Mohegan Tribe held a special ceremony to bless the site in August during the Tribe's traditional summer homecoming celebration.



Photo: Bill Gerda, Mohegan Tribal Publications

## Mohegan Tribal Council

*Front row (left to right):*

**Allison D. Johnson:** Recording Secretary  
**Bruce "Two Dogs" Bozsum:** Chairman  
**Marilynn "Lynn" Malerba:** Vice Chairwoman  
**William Quidgeon, Jr.:** Treasurer

*Back row (left to right):*

**Cheryl Todd:** Councilor  
**"Matahga" Mark F. Brown:** Councilor  
**Ralph James Gessner, Jr.:**  
Corresponding Secretary  
**Mark W. Hamilton:** Councilor  
**Thayne D. Hutchins, Jr.:** Councilor



Photo: Bill Gerda, Mohegan Tribal Publications

## Mohegan Tribal Elders

*Front row (left to right):*

**Maynard L. Strickland:** Elder and Justice  
**Marie Pineault:** Elder and Justice  
**Robert (Bob) Francis Soper:**  
Secretary and Justice

*Back row (left to right):*

**William "Dancing Shadow" Andrews:**  
Elder and Justice  
**John Henry Clark:**  
Chairman and Chief Justice  
**Joseph "Wolf Who Walks Alone" Gray:**  
Vice Chairman and Justice  
**Austin Fish, Jr.:** Treasurer and Justice

# 2007 Native American Economic Impact Summit

Early this past summer, the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, along with the state's other major chambers, hosted Connecticut's first Native American Economic Impact Summit — bringing together more than 175 local, state and federal officials, as well as representatives from Tribal governments, chambers of commerce and the tourism industry.

Jeff Blodgett, vice president of research at the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, and one of the conference's leading presenters, used the forum to release a major new study on the impact of Tribal Gaming on the Connecticut economy.

"The Native American gaming industry is now an integral part of our economy," Blodgett said, adding, "The economic impact of the two casinos has been nothing short of phenomenal and has helped Connecticut and the region overcome the sharp decline in defense-related jobs in the state."

The economic impact study also analyzed employment trends at the two casinos and the impact of their efforts. It was noted that the two Tribes are already two of the five largest employers in the

state, with a combined workforce of over 20,000 people, 90 percent or more of whom live in Connecticut.

While the conference focused on the fact that Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods Resort Casino have become significant employers and major engines of economic activity in Southeastern Connecticut and around the state, state officials and business leaders responded to the fact that Connecticut's neighbors will be trying to siphon off jobs, resources and economic activity by promoting the expansion of casinos in their states.

The need for sound planning and effective strategies to successfully respond to the impact of competition was highlighted by Mohegan Tribal Chairman Bruce "Two Dogs" Bozsum, who reminded the audience that "if we fail to work together and respond to these challenges, it will not only lead to a substantial loss of revenue for the Tribes, but a loss of jobs and revenue for the State of Connecticut."

More information about the conference can be found at [www.chamberect.com](http://www.chamberect.com).

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For further information, contact: [mweditor@moheganmail.com](mailto:mweditor@moheganmail.com) or check us out on the Web at [www.mohegan.nsn.us](http://www.mohegan.nsn.us).

**The Mohegan Way is GOING GREEN**

In the Mohegan Tribe's continuing efforts to become more environmentally responsible, we have made a decision to now print *The Mohegan Way* on Mohawk Options paper — which is:

- 100% Post-Consumer Recycled Fiber (PC)
- Process Chlorine-Free (PCF)
- Certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- Green-e certified





Printed on Mohawk Options in which 100% of the emissions from the electricity used to manufacture this paper are offset with credits from Green-e certified windpower projects.

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