

I am Jadeen Elving. Oldest daughter of Eva Elving. My mom is a boarding school survivor. She went to Wrangle Institute when she was 6 years old. 1955. Later she also attended Mt. Edgecomb. Her whole childhood was stolen from her at those schools. I am Yupik thru my mom. We belong to the Asacarsmiut Tribe. Our people are from the Bering Sea coast where the Yukon meets. Many villages are relation. I thank everyone involved with H.R.5444. I support H.R.5444 The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act.

I have included my Moms, Eva Elving, written testimony with mine. She has Dementia and has a hard time writting emails. It took her a while to write her statement. Please accept it. She has more to say but has a hard time writing it all down.

I have known about my moms childhood. It was always so sad to hear about the abuse and loneliness she suffered as a small child. She went thru medical problems also and was at the hospital she says was part of the Wrangle Institute. Not sure myself but she says she had surgeries there on her ear. She's legally deaf. One ear no hearing other less than half hearing. She also was legally blind for years then had lens replacement surgery and can see better. Now my mom suffers from dementia. She has had a stroke. I am thankful her voice can be heard and recorded.

She told me she was 6 when she was sent to Wrangle Institute. She was confused and scared and wanted to stay with her family. She is the oldest of 12 children. Back then the other younger siblings were to young to be taken.

When she arrived her hair was cut. She was changed out of her traditional clothing to their clothes. She was forced to change. And she didn't understand why this was happening or what she was going thru. She was scared. She was hit for not speaking English and punished and hit for speaking Yupik. She was put into closets for long periods of time. Which caused her to have clasterphobia as an adult. She cant ride elevators alone or walk up stair wells. Small rooms even the dark scare her. To this day she has a hard time sleeping. She sleeps with the lights on.

My mom received her one and only gift package from her parents. Dried fish she was so happy. She was even happy to share it with her childhood friends. The matrons made them all eat the dried fish under the table on the floor. Like animals.

The experiences she shared with me has hurt my heart for her and the thousands of other children who suffered like her and worse. Some never made it back home. Her culture was stripped from her. Her language shamed and beaten out of her. Her pride of who she was where she came from was forced out of her. Her whole childhood was stolen. Her teen years too. She entered the real world broken and lost. She managed to survive this world's discrimination this state's hidden history this governments hidden ugly past. It's been a hard life for my mom. Shes found herself with age and time and support from other family who are deep into our traditions. But it was never the same. I lost my culture too. My mom never made it a priority to teach us our culture. Because of what she went thru. My mom has always been a loving mom she saved us kids with her life. Literally. She never lost love for us. Or for her family. Her family at times shunned her for her cultural differences her experiences they didnt understand. Some still don't see the importance of what she went thru. And sadly some never will unless it happens to them. And I hope this never happens again. We also need to keep our native children out of children's services and foster care. That's another subject.

I couldn't imagine what horrors my mom survived. I am a mother myself and these days if someone treated my child that way I would be pressing charges. I wasnt taught our cultural ways so I couldn't pass them to my children. It trickled down thru 3 generations. Wrangle Institute has made the news for how horrible they were. Its unbelievable our government would allow this to happen to our kids. To families. The newest generations have cultural classes now here in Alaska. But that's not enough. I believe every survivor and descendant who felt the impact of cultural genocide should be repaid for their lost lives. The survivors especially deserve all the help they can get for emotional support to therapy to housing them. before they are all deceased. And bring every child home who didn't survive.

They all deserve all the help to bring closure and to know they are cared about...that the horrors they survived are cared about.

Thank you to the Natural Resources sub committee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States.

Thank you everyone who is a part of this.

Thank you for letting us tell our stories

Eva (Charlie) Elving

Jadeen Elving

May 12, 2022

I'm EVA (Charlie) ELVING, I'm yupik eskimo from Black River area. I had gone to school at Wrangell when I was six years old until I was 10. We'd go home in ^{the} ~~an~~ month of June.

Thank you for the H.R. 5444, The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian ~~Board~~ Boarding School Policies Act.

I did not speak English only my native tongue of Yupik.

I was taken away to go to school probably from Sheldon's Point (where we moved to from Nanukak where I was born.)

We traveled to Anchorage, Juneau, and then to Wrangell

I remember crying wanting to go home back to my parents. Then school started I spoke in Yupik and was told to the front front of the ~~eat~~ class then stick my hand out I was ~~hit~~ hit with a long ruler. I was told never to speak Yupik and went back to my desk.

From what I remember - being locked in my closet and I missed school that day. Another thing receiving dried fish from my parents and I had to share and eat under the table in the office.

We heard through the grape vine the boys were being treated bad.

I missed three years of school because I end up ~~being~~ being at Wrangell hospital I had bad ears and eyes also couple of childhood illnesses.

I've told my children about this
what I had gone through.

It changed me with my family
about not to speak yupik or eskimo
dances. I'm very happy I knew about
my yupik language (the basic) the
other hard every day word I ~~didn't~~
know. don't

I want to Thank the ~~National~~
Natural Resources Sub-Community for
Indigenous Peoples of the United States.

Eva Elving
EVA ELVING

11-10-1949

Asacarsmiut Tribe



EVERY CHILD MATTERS



My mom Eva
was 6 years old
in this picture.

Wrangle Institute
AK 1955





My beautiful
Mom Eva Elving

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Jadeen Elving