

'eméenehi (Hello) Honorable Members of the House Natural Resource Committee,

I am sending this email correspondence to support H.R. 5444/S.2907, the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act. My grandfather, Russell Davis, Sr., was sent to the Sherman Indian Institute in Riverside, California.

He would not speak of his experience at the Sherman Indian Institute, but did say it was a time that he wished never happened. He lost his language and could only remember his name, Késh.

The experience affected him for the rest of his life. He became an alcoholic and was abusive to my grandmother. My grandmother later divorced him and he lived the remainder of his life isolated from his family, never passing on the traditions and language of his Tribe. This was taken from him by the abusive system of these U.S. Indian Boarding Schools.

My hope is that our U.S. Government will acknowledge these atrocities and make amends by passing this Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act. Begin the healing that is so long overdue.

kahúyka (Thank you),  
Sally

Sally (híin 'ónni) Peterson  
Middletown Rancheria Tribal Elder  
Lake Miwok/Northeastern Pomo