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In Tribute To Russell Means – Whose Spirit Shall Never Die!

**Keeping it Real
By Larry Pinkney
BC Editorial Board**

"A very great vision is needed and the man who has it must follow it as the eagle seeks the deepest blue of the sky."

-Chief Crazy Horse

It is through boundless tears of enormous sorrow and simultaneously, with a renewed sense of determination that my column is written today. My sisters and brothers, another people's warrior has transitioned on to be nestled by the spirit of our precious Mother Earth in her strong, gentle and welcoming bosom.

On Monday morning, October 22, 2012, Russell Means, our Indigenous Native warrior, passed on from his physical existence, leaving us a stalwart and exemplary legacy of unrelenting struggle and courage in the face of an increasingly avaricious, vampiric, and hypocritical U.S. Empire. ***[Reference: republished in the, '*Russell Means Freedom*' site, [To Be Black and Head of the U.S. Empire-A Contradiction in Terms](#)].

Our dear brother Russell has now joined with so many others of our heroes and sheroes including Crazy Horse, Nat Turner, John Brown, Harriet Tubman, Emiliano Zapata, Joe Hill, Rosa Luxemburg, Malcolm X, Fannie Lou Hamer, Steve Biko, Bobby Sands, Marilyn Buck, Geronimo Ji-Jaga Pratt, and countless others. He stands with and among them now - proud and free!

Russell Means is perhaps best known as having been one of the leaders of the American Indian Movement (AIM). While Russell was indeed that, he was also so very much more. Russell **never ceased** to point out the chauvinism and arrogance of this nation, which fails to pay heed to the destructive seeds of its own internal and external hypocrisy. His '[Russell Means Freedom](#)' and '[Republic Of Lakotah](#)' web sites constantly sounded the alarm in this regard. While sometimes scorned by the U.S. corporate-stream media, he nevertheless, **did not miss a beat** in exposing and demanding an end to U.S. hypocrisy and the exploitation and oppression of Indigenous Native peoples and all oppressed peoples. He tirelessly sought to raise the consciousness of the people - to get them / us to remember our roots and never lose sight of how valuable these roots are **to this very day**. Russell Means was both **a doer and a visionary**.

Our brother, Russell Means, belongs to **all** of us who love freedom and justice - Red, Black, White, Brown, and Yellow people - **all of us!** We shall hold on tightly to his spirit, and in so doing, we shall remember our many political prisoners of all colors (including Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu-Jamal, and Lynne Stewart), in this nation and throughout Mother Earth. We shall intensify and carry on in the just and necessary struggle of **everyday people**, from here to Palestine, to Haiti, to Asia, to Africa, and yes, to Europe, and indeed throughout this planet.

In the words of Black Panther Party veteran, Kiilu Nyasha, "Long Live The Spirit of Russell Means!" Do not doubt this, for the spirit of Russell Means shall never die!

Remember: Each one, reach one. Each one, teach one. Onward, then, my sisters and brothers. Onward!

BlackCommentator.com Editorial Board member and Columnist, Larry Pinkney, is a veteran of the Black Panther Party, the former Minister of Interior of the Republic of New Africa, a former political prisoner and the only American to have successfully self-authored his civil / political rights case to the United Nations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In connection with his political organizing activities in opposition to voter suppression, etc., Pinkney was interviewed in 1988 on the nationally televised PBS News Hour, formerly known as The MacNeil / Lehrer News Hour. For more about Larry Pinkney see the book, [Saying No to Power: Autobiography of a 20th Century Activist and Thinker](#), by William Mandel [Introduction by Howard Zinn]. (Click [here](#) to read excerpts from the book.) Click [here](#) to contact Mr. Pinkney.



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