

## Time to Go

*I was running in the Human Race for almost too long.  
I ran among other runners, and we encouraged each other on.  
I reached out to hand off the baton,  
My hand suddenly empty, and it was already gone  
The race was still going  
As it should, as it was always intended to be,  
Without me.*

Dear Readers,

I began researching & writing Restless Spirit in 1996. What I thought would be a simple exposé of a miscarriage of Justice became instead, a life's work. The original goal was to keep beating my drum until two innocent men who remained in prison for a murder they had nothing to do with, were known and freed. John Lopez eventually was released on completion of sentence, and a few years ago, Richard LaFuente was, through the diligence and persistence of Texas Monthly writer (now an editor) Michael Hall and the dogged persistence of Todd Trotter, who is producing a documentary, walked out his prison, into the arms of his loved ones, and sat down to a lunch of Huevos Rancheros, a FREE MAN.

Still, I stayed on, thinking I filled some greater purpose in keeping people informed and getting people connected to each other that could do real good works in both shining the light on child abuses, rapes, trafficking throughout Indian Country, and our nation over all. So much of it starts, thrives & remains centered in Indian Country.

Throughout my years of blogging, I have been in contact with some of the most courageous, most determined people from every strata, every walk of life, who have taken great personal risks to bring information forward, to me and to others. They have not all survived. Too many were killed under mysterious or crisis circumstances. We'll never know exactly how or why, on most of them.

But my part in all of this is no longer needed. I'm signing off of the blog. There are still great injustices in Indian Country, and there are still courageous people who risk everything and most of them remain unsung, but they will forever have my deepest appreciation and admiration.

There are those who stuck their necks out, put their names and faces to testimony to bring awareness and hopefully Justice and Refuge to the children they know are being abused, trafficked and raped. They have borne the brunt of attacks and smears for this. They have stuck together, supported each other and kept the faith.

One of the most heartening things I have seen throughout all of this, and it really bears remarking because I was extremely hard on Molly McDonald when she was a tribal court judge and her rulings were, from all the reports I was getting, making more tragedies for children standing before her.

I was merciless.

She was/is related to the core evil out there, the Yanktons, who murdered Eddie Peltier and who were able to frame 11 innocent very young men for their crime, among them, John Lopez and Richard LaFuenta.

Molly's brother, Russell McDonald was one of the most destructive forces on the rez. When he got elected to Tribal Chair, his corruption and abuses of others became epic.

It was while he was at the height of his power, a time when family members have the most to gain by standing by him and the most to lose by standing up to him, that Molly stood up to him.

It involved personal risk of a level few can imagine, much less survive. It was bone jarring courage on her part. Redemption is the rarest courage in Humans. Also the most beautiful.

The woman I had berated and demeaned for her callousness and seemingly uncaring while on the bench, come forward at the most dangerous time, and did the right thing, over and over again.

It cost her dearly. She even dis-enrolled from membership in the tribe. She lost a lot by doing that, but she gained my respect.

To be clear, the woman has never spoken to me, never helped me with anything, but her singular and consistent act of defiance in the face of corruption, to me is one of the most shining moments of courage and integrity I have seen out there. And I have seen MANY.

I'm winding down the blog now, knowing that there are good people out there fighting the good fight for the kids, and they need nothing more from me.

The blog will stay posted for a few years as I work on curating all the thousands of documents and tens of thousands of emails into a searchable database.

I expect to become involved in related issues that are both political and personal. I will have a new website sometime next year, and it will have a tab where you can see postings that relate to Indian Country and Spirit Lake specifically, among others, as well as other issues that are important to me.

I encourage everyone who has ever read this blog and wanted to help to visit the links at the top and make a donation to **Robin's House** or to Todd Trotter's Documentary, "**Incident At Devil's Lake**", and to donate to the **Innocence Project**.

Get involved. Stay involved. Connect with others where you can. The more we come together, the more we stick by one another, the stronger we are and the more we can get done.

Indian Country needs allies now, more than ever and we need The Good People in Indian Country to show us how to stand with them as they fight to protect Mother Earth. The battles being fought now, on so many levels, cannot be ignored.

Keep an open mind. Keep a skeptical eye on what you hear or find, and make sure, as sure as you can, that what you know is the Truth.

Thank you -- Cat