



## Three More Schools Retire Native "Themed" Mascots

*"We should recognize that an 'Indian' mascot promotes a stereotypical image of Native Americans. To have a stereotype as a mascot does not seem at all appropriate for an educational institution."*

*-- Camanche (IA) Superintendent Thomas Parker*

### **Gar-Field High School (VA) "Indians"**

Gar-Field High School will retire its "Indians" mascot at the end of the school year. Principal Matthew Mathison announced the decision in a letter to the community last week. The school has been discussing the use of its mascot for years and elected student leaders acted as strong advocates for change at Gar-Field. The school community will be called upon to help select a new mascot for the 2021-22 school year.

### **Cheyenne Mountain High School (CO) "Indians"**

Last Monday, the Cheyenne Mountain School District 12 Board of Education voted to retire its "Indians" mascot. After months of discussion and significant engagement with the community, the 4-1 vote requires the mascot be retired at the end of the school year. The BOE resolution also calls for a "student and stakeholder-centered process" to select and recommend a new mascot.

### **Camanche High School (IA) "Indians"**

Also last Monday, the Camanche Community School District Board of Education voted to retire its "Indians" mascot at the end of the school year. As part of its mascot review process, the Camanche community met with local Tribal leaders. "All we want is to be thought of and treated as human beings. No more, no less," explained Lawrence SpottedBird, Executive Director of the Meskwaki Nation. Selecting a new mascot is expected to be a community effort that will begin when the school returns from spring break.

***Ending "Indian" Mascots*** is an informational service provided by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), which is the oldest, largest, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization serving the broad interests of tribal governments and communities. It has been leading Indian Country's movement to eradicate offensive "Indian" mascots from sports and popular culture for the past 50 years by educating schools, sports leagues, and the general public about the many harms they cause Native people. To learn more, please click [here](#).

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Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country. NCAI advocates on behalf of tribal governments, promoting strong tribal-federal government-to-government policies, and promoting a better understanding among the general public regarding American Indian and Alaska Native governments, people and rights.

