

Thomasina E. Jordan collection

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Circa 1978-2007

Title Statement

Thomasina E. Jordan collectionGuide to the Thomasina E. Jordan collection MS 00382

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS 00382

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/9744

Unit Date

Circa 1978-2007

Language

English

Extent

15.01 Linear Feet 36 boxes

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Danielle Moretti-Langholtz, PH.D., the Thomasina E. Jordan Director of the American Indian Resource Center.

Preferred Citation

Thomasina E. Jordan collection, Special Collections Research Center, William & Mary Libraries.

Biographical / Historical

Thomasina Elizabeth Jordan (1940–1999), also known as Red Hawk Woman, was an American Indian activist who became the first American Indian to serve in the United States Electoral College in 1988. Jordan received bachelor's and master's degrees in fine arts at Bishop Lee College in Boston.

Jordan, worked tirelessly on behalf of federal recognition and tribal sovereignty for Virginia Indians. A charismatic leader and Wampanoag tribal member, she was sensitive to the onslaught of colonialism that Native people in the east endured for more than four centuries. As chair of the Virginia Council on Indians, Jordan worked to promote educational, health and economic opportunities for the Indigenous citizens in Virginia. In 2017, the 115th U.S. Congress passed the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act, H.R. 984. This bill granted federal status to six Indian tribes in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Monacan Indian Nation, Nansemond Indian Tribe, Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., and the Upper Mattaponi Tribe. The Pamunkey Tribe was granted federal recognition in 2016 through the Bureau of Indian Affairs process, making Virginia home to seven federally recognized tribes.

Scope and Contents

The Thomasina E. Jordan collection contains the personal and professional papers of American Indian activist Thomasina E. Jordan. The collection includes awards, certificates, correspondence, newspaper articles, and photographs. The Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act, H.R. 984 granted federal recognition status to six native tribes in Virginia. This act provides eligible ethnic groups services and benefits provided by the federal government to federally recognized tribes, without regard to the existence of a reservation for the tribe. The act was named in honor of Thomasina E. Jordan.

Keywords

Native American history and society
Indians of North America
Indians of North America--Photographs
Indians of North America--Virginia

Description of Subordinate Components

Oversize photographs

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/606785

Mixed Materials 36 (box)