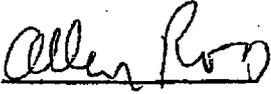
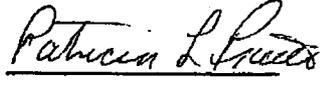


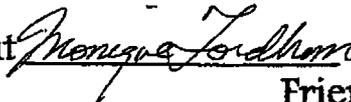
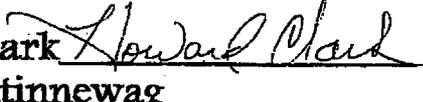
In the spirit of peace, healing and understanding we come together on this date of May 19, 2004, to acknowledge the tragic events that took place on the shores of this river May 19, 1676 and thereby begin to put the traumatic echoes of the past to rest.

It is chronicled that in 1676, Narragansett Chief Sachem Canonchet, in the midst of war, organized the refugee villages for the women, children and elderly at the Falls. In his absence, they were attacked and hundreds were killed. In 1996, in the spirit of Canonchet, the Narragansett returned to the ancient land of their relatives, the Pocumtuck, to assist the protection of the ancient and war burials at Wissatinnewag. In recent weeks, the village of Turners Falls has requested of the Medicine Man of the Narragansett a ceremony of spirit healing and reconciliation. That request is honored here today.

For thousands of years, the area of and around the Great Falls was a place of peace where all were welcome. This area served as a focal point for diplomacy and exchange, particularly during the harvest of the shad and salmon migrations.

As we exchange gifts, ideas and good will today, we commit to a future that will continue the exchange of actions to promote understanding about and between the cultures, increase mutual vigilance for historic preservation, and deepen our appreciation for the rich heritage of the indigenous peoples of our region and all who have found respite, sanctuary and welcome here.

Patricia Allen,  Allen Ross  Patricia Pruitt   
Chairperson  
Montague Board of Selectman

Monique Fordham – President  Howard Clark   
Friends of Wissatinnewag Friends of Wissatinnewag

Matthew “7<sup>th</sup> Hawks” Thomas  
Narragansett Chief Sachem

Narragansett Medicine Man  
Lloyd “Running Wolf” Wilcox

