

My name is Mark OneWolf Yancey. I am one of the Board of Directors of the Native American Guardians Association. We are a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving native American Heritage, History and Culture through education and relationship building. Thought history nothing gets done without a unified approach.

Native American Imagery and presence in popular culture is good for us. We are the smallest minority and constantly struggle for presence in the mainstream. This virtual isolation leads to a lot of Natives falling through the cracks. We have a high high school dropout rate and low college attendance among the minorities. Suicide, drugs, alcohol, domestic violence and sex trafficking also highest among our demographic. Most Americans do not know these things and there is a need for awareness and support. NAGA acknowledges Hollywood type stereotypes to be inaccurate and not always negative but doesn't truly depict the people. These stereotypes are usually innocently created out of ignorance and sometimes morph to something negative. Our approach to the problem; our solution to the problem is education. We take the Educate and modify not eradicate approach as a lot of our overall goals are common to the opposition. It is really our solutions that have led us to this in pass.

In reality, the Braves logo is not just authentic in its representation of the region's first warriors, it was Braves — just like the one pictured who gave Native Americans their greatest military victory ever against the United States Army. Indeed, so one-sided was this defeat, known as the Battle of a Thousand Slain, that it is noted by an expert not just as a "tactical masterpiece," but one considered "the worst military defeat in U.S. history."

But, to understand the full value of the name "Braves" one also needs to understand the school's county was named in 1803 for the defeated General Richard Butler who was killed in action on Nov. 4, 1791, in this Ohio battle located approximately 60 miles due north of the school. So, by all reasonable measures of heraldry, the wildly victorious Braves weren't appropriately or widely recognized until some 150 years later — ostensibly — by the naming of the school's rightfully bold honorific...

Given facts and history is all too often ignored in favor of the emotional argument it really begs the question Are people truly offended by the word, a picture? or is it the PEOPLE that are represented? I am really beginning to think the latter.

Mark OneWolf Yancey
Board of Directors Native American Guardians Association