ERA  ARTIST STATEMENT

June 30, 1938 - June 30, 2018

When I was asked to create an art piece commemorating Billy’s 80th birthday, I knew exactly what I wanted to do.

Because of the support from many people around the world, I wanted to depict some images from his life that all of you would know about or be interested in learning about.

First of all, I am calling this piece ERA. A simple definition of ERA is a. A fixed point in time from which a series of years is reckoned or b. a memorable date, especially one that begins a new period in the history of a person.

So let’s look at this scarf!

We will start on the left….There is a small buffalo standing on the plains of South Dakota. He’s small, tentative, unsure. As your eye travels left to right, you see a drum/clock with the number 80 in it. Below the drum/clock are two human images, which I made to represent Billy and his father, Sidney Mills. Keep traveling through the images and the center Olympic rings are supported by the faint image of an eagle!

Below the Olympic rings is the badlands of South Dakota and a more mature buffalo. Is the buffalo.... Billy?

The golden sticks you see next were needed to balance the composition, they could be trees, sticks, roads..... And next to the roads is a fully mature buffalo! He is surrounded by the number 80! The blue you see represents mni wiconi. (Lakota: Water is Life).

Finally, my favorite! A Lakota war pony! He is decorated with traditional colors and looking straight at you.

This scarf represents a journey and it will make its own journey around the world. I am honored to have created it for Billy and for you. Enjoy.

Patricia Mills
June 30, 2018