

# THE LONGEST WALK COMMITTEE

c/o Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition  
1710 Blue Rock St, Cincinnati, OH 45223  
[www.longestwalk.us](http://www.longestwalk.us)

April 15, 2022

The Longest Walk Committee is comprised of family and friends of Dennis Banks. We have worked for seven years to organize and carry out the mission of Longest Walk 5.

This year, we are setting out to complete the mission of this Longest Walk, and we are seeking your support. The Longest Walk 5 Spirit Walk for Solutions to Domestic Violence, Substance Use, and Trauma Awareness will begin May 1, 2022, at Dennis Banks' gravesite in Leech Lake MN, and conclude in Washington DC, with ceremonies and a community celebration on July 8 and 9, 2022.

Throughout this multi-year journey, the Walk has heard inspirational stories of hope, love, and light in regards to the issues of drug abuse and domestic violence. The Walk has also heard of the despair that plagues the nations. The Walk has seen that children as young as 6 years old are affected by these issues of drug abuse and domestic violence. Families are stepping forward and voicing the despair that has come upon them because of drug abuse or domestic violence. In communities where victims never had a voice before, the Walk has heard story after story about how these victims have been abused and are now coming forward. Native communities are crying out and rejoicing that the Longest Walk 5 has become an outspoken voice for the issues that have been swept under the rug for too long. This Walk has seen families, united on a stage and stronger than ever, share stories of recovery and love. The Walk has also seen young women and men who are still engaged in the hardship of drug abuse and have not found their recovery. The Longest Walk 5 is the most important Walk to ever happen, because the effects of drug abuse/alcohol abuse and domestic violence affect everyone and are happening at devastatingly high rates.

This year, the Walk moves beyond awareness, and offers solutions to the communities we visit and to leaders across the nation. Our itinerary is included in this packet.

This Walk is a major undertaking. We need financial support from Tribal Nations and people of good will throughout the world. Donations can be made online at [www.longestwalk.us](http://www.longestwalk.us), or by check at the address above.

Our goal is to raise \$35,000 to support and complete this mission. Our 501(C)(3) fiscal sponsor is the Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition. Dennis Banks lived in Greater Cincinnati during the 1990s, where he worked as an alcohol and drug counselor. His activism in our area resulted in legislation in Kentucky and Indiana to protect Native gravesites against looting and desecration.

Please help us complete this critical mission.

We appreciate your kindness, your hard work, your dedication, and your prayers.

Sincerely,

THE LONGEST WALK COMMITTEE



## MESSAGE FROM DENNIS BANKS

National Field Director, American Indian Movement

August 20, 2015

Because of the extremely high rate of suicides, and other drug related deaths I am issuing a state of war declaration between the American Indian Movement and Drugs across America. The deaths are at a pandemic stage!

Today, I announce a walk across America to be held February 13, 2016 through July 15, 2016 from California to Washington DC. We will call attention to and seek guidance on drug related issues that are causing devastation on Indian Reservations and communities in the United States.

Along the 3600 mile journey we will work with the communities to collect information on ways to heal our people and the Earth.

We will host forums to see how communities are addressing one of the most difficult issues facing people and the Earth today. We will gather information about solutions from community leaders, law enforcement, clergy and drug program directors. College students will interview community members, students, parents, spiritual leaders, counselors and tribal officers in an attempt to get the bigger picture of the issues.

The information will be used to help determine what we must do to win the war against drugs. This effort will help prepare a new generation of Native American leaders and community leaders to fight the war against drugs.

The issues facing our people and the issues facing our Earth are connected. They both arise from the kind of thinking that does not value people or the Earth. Native American traditions oppose this sort of thinking. We say all life is sacred, and we speak as the conscience of our Earth.

We will lead by example, expressing our native spirituality and reverence for all life as we journey across the United States.

We will travel any distance to discover these solutions!

-- Dennis Banks

**THE LONGEST WALK COMMITTEE**

Darla Banks  
Ray St. Clair  
Beatrice Menase Kwe Jackson  
Peggy McNew  
Leonard Seabolt

**501(C)(3) FISCAL SPONSOR**

Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition

**NATIONAL WALK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Carol Collins  
(616) 204-3624  
carol@collinsart.org  
615 Kent Hills RD NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

**PROJECT CONSULTANT**

Washington DC Event Coordinator  
Paul Komarek  
(513) 494-6280  
komarek@humanintervention.net

# WWW.LONGESTWALK.US

## Longest Walk 5 in 2022



Calling an end to drug abuse and domestic violence.

MAY 1 TO JULY 9, 2022

LEECH LAKE MN TO WASHINGTON DC

[www.longestwalk.us](http://www.longestwalk.us)

Walk Chief

Ray St. Clair

flyinghawk68@gmail.com

(248) 798-2196

### KEY DATES

April 29-30 Orientation. Leech Lake Indian Reservation

May 1. Sunrise Ceremony at Dennis Banks Grave Site

May 5. Water Ceremony, Duluth MN

May 20-23. Water Rally. St. Ignace MI and Mackinaw City MI.

May 30. Freedom Walk. Saginaw Chippewa Tribe, Mt. Pleasant MI.

June 6. Walk through downtown Detroit.

June 8. "Take the Custer Statue Down" Rally, Monroe MI

July 8. Community Celebration, Washington DC

June 9. Walk Closing Ceremonies, National Mall, Washington DC

Our Mission is to walk across this country on foot seeking ways to halt drug abuse and domestic violence. We will continue to call attention to and seek guidance on the issues that are causing devastation in Indian communities and communities across the nation.

Along the journey we will work with communities, hold gatherings and collect information on ways to heal our people and the earth in an attempt to get the bigger picture of the issues.

The information will be used to help determine what we must do to help halt this devastation. Once we reach our data goal and 10,000 mile walk we will begin to prepare are presentation to congress.

This effort will help prepare a new generation of Native leaders and community leaders to help guide us to a better future.

Longest Walk 5 Committee  
Darla Banks, Ray St. Clair,  
Beatrice Menase Kwe Jackson  
Peggy McNew, Leonard Seabolt

Project Consultant, Washington DC Event Coordinator  
Paul Komarek (513) 494-6280  
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