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Ēkwabet – “Watching Over”

by Guy J. Bellaver

Bronze

Named by the Potawatomi Nation
to give the sculpture a protective spirit
Name creator – Billy Daniels of the
Forest County Potawatomi

Legend that appears on the sculpture base:

Listen, for I speak but once....

*As I gaze across the waters of the shimmering Fox River, I see the smoke of
thousands of teepees where I once saw only gentle prairies
and lush forests abundant with game.*

*Many moons ago my people were among the first voices to be heard in this
land. We came to live in peace with nature. We hunted and fished. We
married, bore children and died at our appointed time. The bones of my
people mingle here with the earth. We loved this Valley.*

*It was with great sadness that we had to leave our home. We were few,
and the settlers were many. The spirits of my ancestors have never left this
great Valley, and occasionally, you may glimpse our shadows or feel our
presence as we tread silently along the shores of our beloved Fox River.*

*Our final prayer as we left our land was that you would love this Valley as
much as we loved it. We were one with the earth, sky and water. We were
the Neshnabek, the “People” of the Valley.*

Sculpture
Guy J. Bellaver



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