WATER *Life's Flow* SOIL *Provider Of Generations*

AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH

NOVEMBER 2015

"We thank and honor our Mother Earth. She enables life for all creatures. Mother Earth provides air, life giving water, and soil. We go to water to quench our thirst, for cleansing, and to give life to what we grow in the soil. Mother Earth is the central figure in the painting as she is the source of all life. Her hair is divided into four sections to characterize the four rivers of Tennessee; the mountains are the Appalachian Mountains. The Trail that develops out of Mother Earth's clothing is the Trail of Tears where thousands of Native Americans perished. The bent figure signifies the end of the trail. Strategically placed in the center of the trail is the circle of life symbol representing the importance of balance, beauty, and harmony with nature, self, and society. The bear symbolizes the great strength and protective qualities that our proud race encompasses."

- Dakota Duncun, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Fayetteville, Tennessee

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