

The

November 15, 2021 God Bless America

POLITICALLY  
INCORRECT  
AND PROUD OF IT!



# American Indian Reporter



AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBAL NEWS \* ERNIE C. SALGADO JR., CEO, PUBLISHER/EDITOR



THANK  
YOU  
JESUS



Happy  
Thanksgiving



## 52-Years of History

"The Shot Heard Around the World"

### Alcatraz November 20, 1969 - June 11, 1971

The Occupation of Alcatraz will forever be immortalized in American Indian History and tribal folklore as the birth of the American Indian resistance against the mistreatment, oppression and domination of the American Indian people by the United States Government.

**52-Years Ago On November 20, 1969,** 89 American Indians who called themselves **Indians of All Tribes** (IOAT) took over the small Island of Alcatraz. The Alcatraz Occupation lasted for nineteen months when it was forcibly ended by the U.S. government on June 11, 1971.

The **Occupation of Alcatraz** is the most significant achievements in the history of the American Indians and the U.S. Government. It should be declared National Day or Recognition by the 500 plus Tribal Governments. Why, because it changes the tribal relationship between the Tribal Governments and the U.S. Government forever. "**Alcatraz Day**" would be a fitting formal National holiday replacement for Columbus Day.

The occupiers specifically cited their treatment under the Indian termination policy and accused the U.S. government of breaking numerous Indian treaties.

In Nixon's July 8, 1970, Indian message, he decried termination, proclaiming, "**Self-determination among Indian people can and must be encouraged without the threat of eventual termination.**"

By late May 1971, the government had cut off all electrical power and all telephone service to the island. Left

without power, fresh water, and in the face of diminishing public support and sympathy, the number of occupiers began to dwindle.

On June 11, 1971, a large force of government officers removed the remaining 15 people from the island.

Though fraught with controversy and forcibly ended, the Occupation is hailed by many as a success for having attained international attention for the plight of American Indian peoples in the United States, and for sparking more than 200 instances of civil disobedience among the American Indian tribal people.

**IMPACT:** The **Occupation of Alcatraz** had a direct effect on federal Indian policy and, with its visible results, established a precedent for Indian activism.

In Nixon's July 8, 1970, Indian message, he decried termination, proclaiming, "**Self-determination among Indian people can and must be encouraged without the threat of eventual termination.**" While this was a step toward substantial reform, the administration was hindered by its bureaucratic mentality, unable to change its methodical approach of dealing with Indian rights.

Much of the Indian rights activism of the period can be traced to the Occupation of Alcatraz. the Occupation of Alcatraz was noted as "**the symbol of a newly awakened desire among Indians for unity and authority in a white world.**"

Although she would not receive the same recognition from mainstream media as Trudell and Oakes, LaNada Means, who was one of the main leaders organized written statements and speeches that outlined the purpose of "**The Occupation of Alcatraz.**"



Left, **Richard Oaks**— Center white shirt, **Denis Turner**, (Rincon) Current Executive Director Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association, Inc., and Right, U.S. Office of Civil Rights Region IX representative.



# The American Indian Reporter

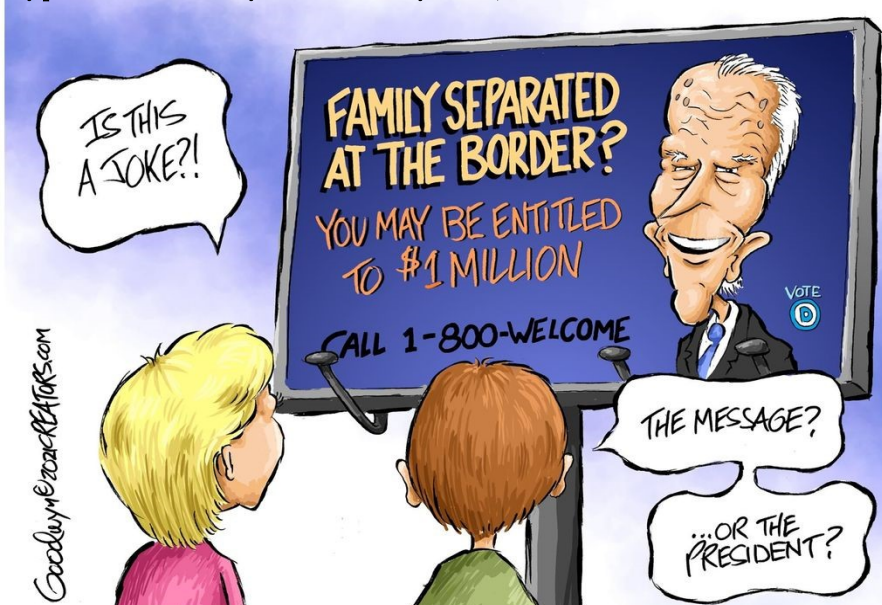
## The Psychology of Turkeys

This section is dedicated to the insane actions, decisions and policies made by our would be elected representatives.

My View By *Ernie C. Salgado Jr.,*

### INSANITY ON STEROIDS

By permission of Goodwyn and Creators Syndicate, Inc.



WASHINGTON—The Biden administration is in talks to offer immigrant families that were separated during the Trump administration around \$450,000 a person in compensation, according to people familiar with the matter, as several agencies work to resolve lawsuits filed on behalf of parents and children who say the government subjected them to “lasting psychological trauma.”

The U.S. Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and Health and Human Services are considering payments that could amount to close to \$1 million a family, though the final numbers could shift, the people familiar with the matter said.

Most of the families that crossed the border illegally from Mexico to seek asylum in the U.S. included one parent and one child, the people said.

Many families would likely get smaller payouts, depending on their circumstances, the people said.

**EDITORS NOTE by Ernie C. Salgado, Jr., American Indian Reporter:** Seeing as how I'm not an attorney, my question is regarding the setting of a legal precedence or will the decision of the Department of Justice to reward the illegal immigrants for breaking our federal immigration laws be a political decision?

It would appear to be a political decision by the DOJ to concede to the law suit. However, since it is a legal matter in a court of law the court would rule in the favors of the illegal immigrants. As it did in the Former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe law suit.

Now, the question of legal precedence's: Will the parents that broke the law and had their children placed in “Protective Custody” such as juvenile facilities and; or foster care have the legal rights to seek financial retribution for the “lasting psychological trauma,” that they and their children were subjected to and suffered?

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### Inflation Not Growing Fast Enough - Biden Plans Shutting Down Another Oil Source

By **Daily Wire News** \* Contributed by Franklin Motte, Moreno Valley CA

The Biden administration confirmed on Monday, November 8, 2021 that it is considering shutting down an oil pipeline in Michigan as fuel prices skyrocket across the country.

“Revoking the permits for the [Line 5] pipeline that delivers oil from western Canada across Wisconsin, the Great Lakes and Michigan and into Ontario, would please environmentalists who have urged the

*White House to block fossil fuel infrastructure, but it would aggravate a rift with Canada and could exacerbate a spike in energy prices that Republicans are already using as a political weapon,”* Politico Pro reported last week. *“Killing a pipeline while U.S. gasoline prices are the highest in years could be political poison for Biden, who has seen his approval rating crash in recent months.”*

### Biden Refers To Famous Pitcher Satchel Paige As A ‘Great Negro.’

Source: DailyWire.com



In May 2016, former President Barack Obama signed a bill into law that would ban the federal government from using the term “Negro,” permitting “African-American” instead.

Speaking at a Veterans Day event at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, President Biden used a term which many find offensive, referring to the great black pitcher of the past, Satchel Paige, as “the great Negro at the time,” adding for clarification, “pitcher in the Negro leagues,” the term used to

describe the segregated leagues for African-American players in the early to mid-20th century. Morris O’Kelly, a Los Angeles-based black radio host characterized ‘Negro’ as the ‘low-calorie version of the N-Word,’ Voice of America (VOA) reported.

The main stream media and the social media platforms have not reported the “Racist” remarks by Biden.

### CRITICAL RACE THEORY

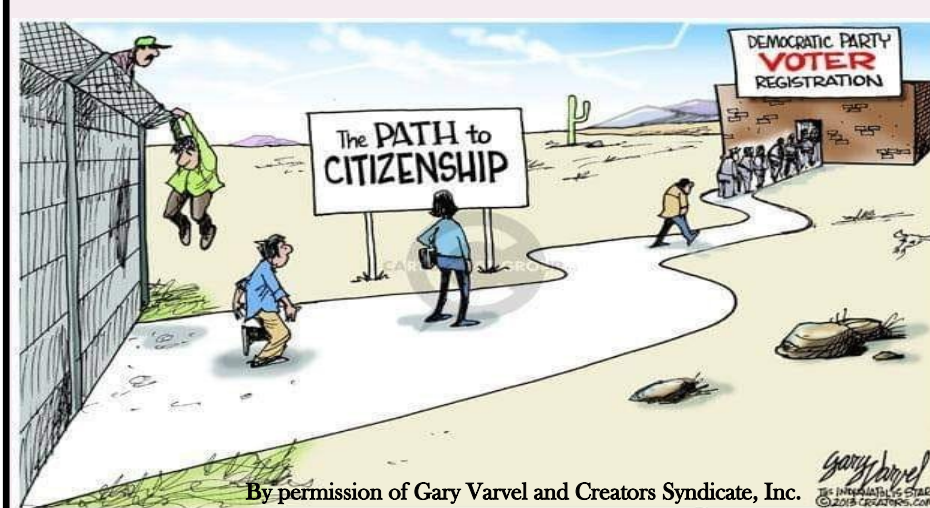
### MARXISM

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BPR BUSINESS & POLITICS

### Is This Even Legal?



By permission of Gary Varvel and Creators Syndicate, Inc.

The Biden administration has been secretly flying migrants who crossed into the U.S. illegally along the border with Mexico to Florida in dozens of late-night flights, according to reports.

According to Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis’ office, the Biden administration has sent more than 70 migrant-filled flights to an airport in Jacksonville under the cover of darkness as the Department of Homeland Security “struggles to

*empty overflowing border facilities,”* the Washington Examiner reported.

This policy is not limited to Florida as it involves hundreds of cities and town throughout the Country.

Is this policy even legal under the U.S. Immigration Status? And what funding allocation is covering the \$248 billion dollars spent since February 20, 2021 on the illegal immigrants? That’s close to \$25 BILLION dollars per month.

“LET’S GO BRANDON”



## American Indian Woman, Capt. Anneliese Satz U.S. Marine Corps' 1st Female Fighter Pilot

**Military.com**

By Gina Harkins

Capt. Anneliese Satz is a member of Idaho's Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

She is the U.S. Marine Corps' first-ever female F-35B Lighting II Joint Strike Fighter jet pilot.

Twenty-four years after the Marine Corps got its first female aviator, another woman pilot is making history.

She's the first woman to complete the F-35B Basic Course, designed specifically for the Marine Corps variant of the fighter jet.

The F-35B can take off and land vertically from amphibious assault ship flight decks and austere locations with little runway space.

Capt. Satz recalled the first time she took off in the Joint Strike Fighter in a Marine Corps news release announcing her career milestone.

"The first flight in an F-35 is by yourself," she said. "... It's an exhilarating experience."

"This is a phenomenal program made possible by all of their hard work," she said in a Marine Corps news release. "I am thankful to have had the opportunity to learn from all of them. I am incredibly excited to get to VMFA-121 and look forward to the opportunity to serve in the Fleet Marine Forces."



## Alcohol is the Most Dangerous Drug on the Planet!

By Ernie C. Salgado Jr.

Please, Make no mistake, alcohol is the most dangerous drugs on the planet. And yes, I'm well aware that there are many more lethal drugs readily available. However, alcohol can legally be purchased almost anywhere within the community and is socially acceptable.

And on the Rez it was the way of life and it seemed as an unwritten "Rite of Passage" in many ways. Hopefully we have become wiser and more sensitive to the needs of our people.

**What's the word? Thunderbird!** A little trivia from back in the fifties, which only a few of us can relate to or even remember. Thunderbird was a cheap nasty sweet Gallo wine that many of us drank when we were out in the dark at the reservation ball diamond in the late hour of the night into the wee hours of the morning.

**However, as survivors** we are privileged to be Tribal Elders as many of our brothers and sister were not so fortunate having succumb to the perils that accompany the abuse of alcohol that normally accompany the unmonitored consumption of alcohol.

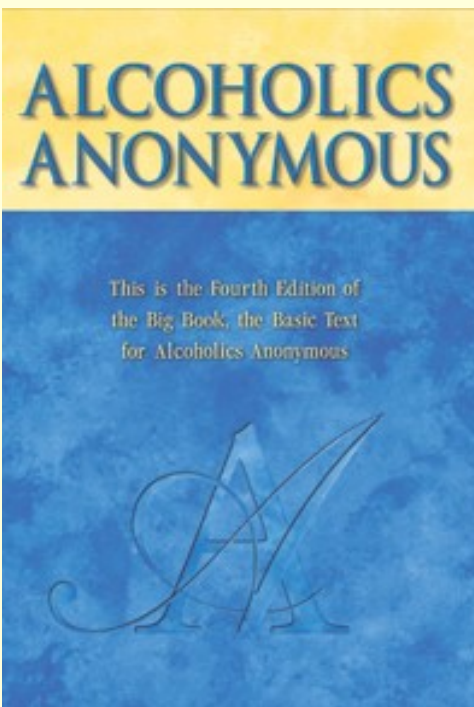
**Many of us oldies do not partake** of the fruits of the vine any longer nor do we flirt with the man-made mind-altering chemicals that can burn up brain cell faster than a Tijuana taxi driver can run up cab fare.

One of the greatest advantages of being

a Tribal Elder is that we can reminisce of "The good ole days" and in doing so we can take the liberty to alter or adjust our perceptions of the times gone by that may not have been so glamorous. But, again this is our license for surviving.

**Under our watch** the world has changed and regardless if it has been for the better or the worst it is what it is.

**One of the realities** us old-time alcohol abusers are doomed to accept is that the our time on earth has been significantly reduced due to our poor choices in the past.



This is as certain as the fact that the buffalo are not coming back nor is \$1 a gallon gasoline and Michael Jackson would have never been black again. That is just the way it is and their nothing we can say or do to change it.

**However, as Tribal Elders** and "Warriors Against Drugs" we can help govern the future through leadership, mentoring and support for our children and grandchildren. We must let our young people know that we care about them.

**It is only recently** that alcoholism has been recognized as a disease and even more recent as a deadly one.

**But unlike any other illness** the individual must be the one to decide to seek a cure for which there is none! Abstinence is the only known treatment either with medication, which can be fatal, attending a certified rehab program, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or sheer will power.

**Alcoholics Anonymous 12-Steps** is one of the most successful self help programs and one that I personally endorse based on my own path to sobriety.

**Today our tribal leaders** continue fighting to protect our Tribal Sovereignty and Treaty Rights in the Courts and the hall of Congress. This is where our



war is battled. To make my point even farther, the last shooting war Indians won was 134 years ago at the battle of the Little Big Horn.

But the real struggle is in our own backyards. Our challenge is to help save our young people from the ancestors of Thunder Bird and the multitude of man-made mind-altering drugs.

**Sobriety is a blessing from God**, not only for the alcoholic or the substance abuser; it is God's blessing for the families, our people and our tribes.

Alcohol is the "Gate Way Drug" to all other drugs. And to make matter even more troubling is the legalization of marijuana usage. *If this doesn't meet the criteria for the definition of political insanity, what does?*

Well, maybe in San Francisco, where they have banned the use of plastic straws but allow people to use heroin in public and discard the needles on the street as well as to urinate and defecate in public, **what health hazard...?**

Ok, stick a fork in me I'm done!

LASKINSFEST

3RD ANNUAL

HOLLYWOOD POW-WOW

DOLBY FORECOURT THEATER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST, 2021

9AM - 5PM (PST)

Susan Jackson - Head Women Dancer

Shigo Billililiso - Head Man Dancer

Phoenix Box - Host Northern Drum

Eric Bohay - Host Southern Drum

Richard Decrane - Arena Director

Walter Ahhaitty - Master of Ceremonies

ALL DANCERS WELCOME!

FREE ADMISSION & OPEN TO ALL AGES

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14TH ANNUAL NATIVE YOUTH CONFERENCE

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#DTCONFERENCE

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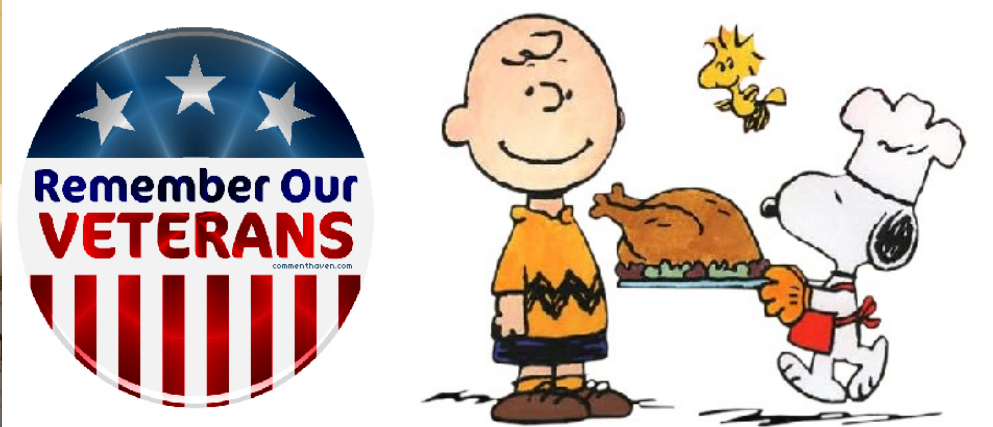
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH

DREAM THE IMPOSSIBLE

SATURDAY

APRIL 23, 2022

THIS EVENT IS FOR NATIVE YOUTH AGES 12-19 IN MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL





NOV 9, 2021

# Morongo donates \$100,000 to California Indian Nations College

The contribution to the growing Palm Desert community college is part of its \$3,000,000 Campaign to support its unique program integrating Native curriculum into postsecondary education

PRESS POOL

In its ongoing effort to help educate and prepare the next generation of tribal leaders, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians located in southern California along Interstate-10 has donated \$100,000 to the California Indian Nations College (CINC) in Palm Desert, CA.

The donation is part of the two-year (CINC) \$3-Million Campaign, launched in April 2021 with an initial goal to raise \$1 million by December 30, 2021.

California Indian Nations College is working to become the first fully-accredited tribal college in the state of California to offer two-year degrees.

*"We are incredibly grateful to the Morongo Band of Mission Indians*

*for investing in the future of Native students and for the Tribe's ongoing commitment to supporting the academic success of Native people everywhere,"* said Celeste Townsend, California Indian Nations College's president. *"This gift allows us to continue our mission to provide a culturally-responsive academic curriculum rooted in Native American values."*

*"The California Indian Nations College is a bold and visionary institution that seeks to reverse historic trends that have left Native students underrepresented in postsecondary education,"* said Morongo Tribal Chairman Charles Martin. *"We firmly believe education is the great equalizer and we hope this contribu-*

*tion will help bring greater educational equity to Native people."*

2021 data from the Postsecondary Policy Institute shows that less than 10% of Native Americans receive an associate's degree, and only 16% attain a bachelor's degree or higher.

The California Indian Nations College donation aligns with Morongo's long history of supporting higher education.

Since 2010, the Rodney T. Mathews Scholarship Program at Morongo has awarded \$530,000 to 53 Native American students attending universities across the nation. The program is open to enrolled members of any of the more than 100 federally-recognized tribes in California.

MORONGO  
BAND OF  
MISSION  
INDIANS



A SOVEREIGN NATION



TACUNA

WELLNESS CIRCLE  
WEAVING THE BASKET OF LIFE

with Jacquie Tahuka Nunez  
(Juaneno Band of Mission  
Indians/ Acjachemen Nation)  
&  
Jackson Tahuka Nunez  
(Acjachemen Nation/Tohono O'odham  
Nation/Seminole Nation)

Wednesday, November 17  
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM PT / 9:30 to 10:30 PM ET  
Live on Zoom

Register here:  
[linktr.ee/tacuna](https://linktr.ee/tacuna)

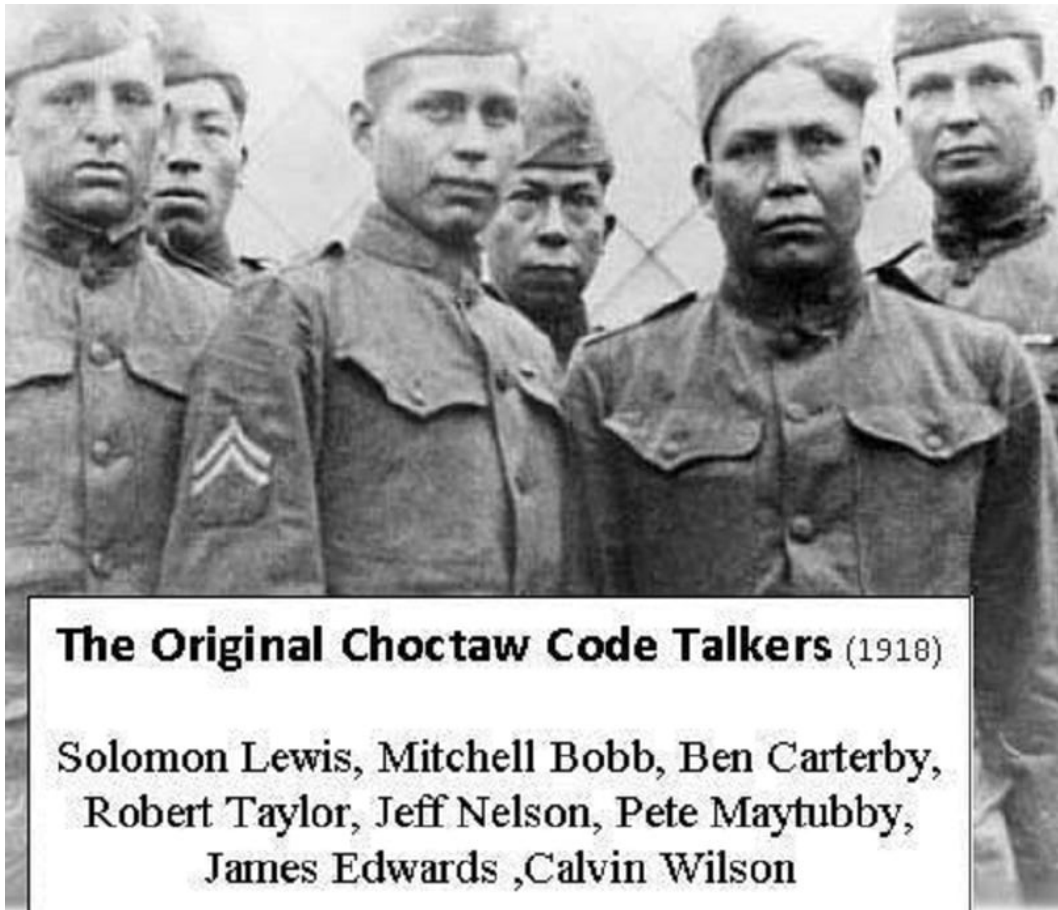


Please join us on **Wednesday, November 17** for "Weaving the Basket of Life," a Wellness Circle with Jacquie-Tahuka-Nunez, member of the Acjachemen Nation & Juaneno Band of Mission Indians. Jacquie is an award winning educator, master storyteller, and workshop leader at schools and conferences. She will tell stories and weave a basket as she shares how basket weaving is similar to life; over and un-

der daily situations, what keeps us centered is the weaver which represents our inner strength.

This circle will be facilitated by Dr. Dan Dickerson (Inupiaq) and is intended to be a space to share, connect with others, and learn about Native American culture and wellness. This event is open to everyone, and all who attend will have a chance to win one of two \$25 gift

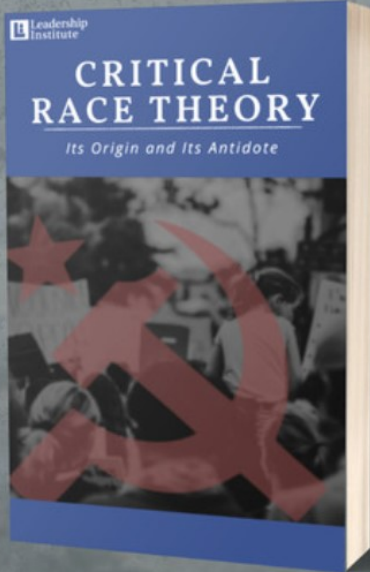
Courtesy of Long Beach State University American Indian Studies Alumni Association & Office of Alumni Relations



The Original Choctaw Code Talkers (1918)

Solomon Lewis, Mitchell Bobb, Ben Carterby,  
Robert Taylor, Jeff Nelson, Pete Maytubby,  
James Edwards ,Calvin Wilson

Leadership  
Institute



Learn how to stop Critical Race Theory from destroying America.



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NOV 5, 2021

Tribal nation treaties are legally binding agreements with the U.S.

Understanding U.S. and tribal nations legally binding treaties as long term purchase agreements with ongoing legal obligations

ANGELIQUE EAGLEWOMAN





When the United States was established, the new federal officials followed the practice of Great Britain in entering into treaties with tribal nations to establish alliances and acknowledge territorial boundaries. Over time, the U.S. officials sought to enter into treaty agreements for land purchases. In those legal negotiations, tribal leaders reserved homelands as reservations and terms to provide for future generations.

What does not seem to be generally understood by U.S. agencies, state governments, mainstream news outlets, and the general public is that many of those treaties are legally binding long-term purchase agreements with ongoing legal obligations.

There were over 400 treaties entered into by the United States with tribal nations. Many of those treaties included a cession, another word for purchase of land, and in exchange, tribal leaders added terms of ongoing hunting, fishing, and harvesting rights on the lands purchased by the United States. There is no end date to those ongoing treaty rights terms for tribal governments and tribal members/citizens.

An example that most would be familiar with is a long-term purchase agreement with installment payments every year. The United States agreed to the purchase of often-massive numbers of acres and in exchange agreed to often a paltry sum and to ongoing legal obligations to tribal nations with no end date.

Over time, the United States has not been upholding the treaty rights for hunting, fishing, and harvesting in the purchased lands, which have led to tribal nations engaging in expensive litigation

to hold the United States to the purchase agreements (treaties).

Think of this as an owner signing a purchase agreement with a buyer and requiring the buyer to continue to make installment payments long-term. When the buyer stops making the installment payments, then the owner may call in the obligation or seek to legally enforce the obligation.

Tribal nations owned the lands in North America prior to the establishment of the United States. For the United States to gain territory to add more states, the U.S. officials entered into legally binding treaty documents with tribal nations to secure land purchases and these land purchases have long-term obligations (treaty rights).

Further, the state governments admitted to the United States have also blocked the ongoing treaty rights due to tribal nations. This has required the tribal nations to engage in costly litigation to hold the state governments to their ongoing obligations in joining the United States Union. To enter into the United States, new states were required to uphold applicable United States law.

In the U.S. Constitution Art. VI, the supremacy clause provides the following: *"This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every State shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding."*

Legally binding treaties are within the supreme law of the United States and must be followed by the state governments. This also includes the federal agreements enacted by the U.S. Congress recognizing tribal nation reservations and the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act to allow the Secretary of the Interior to take lands into trust and restore lands of tribes, 25 U.S.C. § 5108.

This discussion of the legal agreements the U.S. is bound to uphold with tribal nations is highly relevant to the continued enforcement of basic sustainability principles to ensure hunting, fishing and harvesting on the lands purchased by the United States.

Running oil pipelines and other energy infrastructure through the lands with ongoing legal obligations requires at a minimum the consent of the tribal nation owner and the treaty partner. The mainstream media often leave out the legality of the treaty rights being asserted in reporting on the litigation filed, the water protector camps, and the tribal nation statements.

The tribal nation treaty rights to clean water, clean land and clean air for tribal members and for tribal treaty resources are legal obligations agreed to by the United States and required to be followed by the state governments. These are not optional and they are not "special rights."

These are the terms for the land purchases that were astutely and wisely negotiated by ancestral tribal leaders. These terms do not expire and they run with the use of the land by the U.S. as the purchaser and the state governments receiving land rights from the federal government.



SHOSHONDAL HA THASH  
(SOLDIERS DAY)

VETERANS DAY  
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

NCAI President Fawn Sharp recognized as COP26 delegate

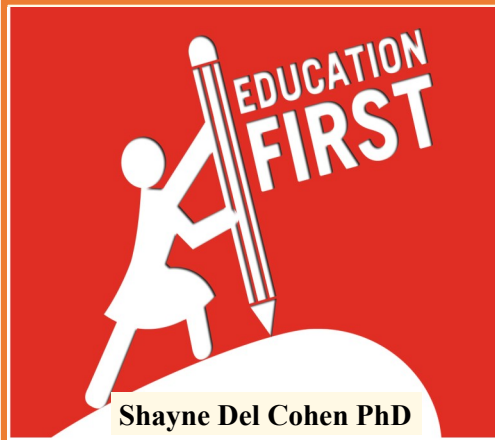


Fawn Sharp, Quinault, has become the first tribal leader to receive diplomatic recognition from the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties.

Sharp, who is attending the conference until its conclusion Nov. 12 in Glasgow, Scotland, said in a statement the recognition is an honor.

"As I accept the honor of being the first tribal leader to receive full credentials as a delegate to the United Nations Conference of Parties, I do so with an incredible sense of optimism, because I know the invaluable contributions to the fight against Climate Change that Native Americans and our Indigenous relatives globally will make to turn the tide," she said.





## Shayne's Journal

Shayne's Journal is a daily blog posted by Shayne Del Cohen, PhD  
Email: shayne@sprintmail.com

### “Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution”

(Article printer in the American Indian Reporter November 1, 2018)



## Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution:

*“The Congress shall have the Power To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.”*

This was written in 1789. While there had already been about 200 hundred years of English, Spanish, French, and Russian “laws” imposed upon various Indian territories, this single phrase set the foundation and stage for American Indian Tribal Governments interactions thru today.

Needless to say, there has been conflicting interpretations and many, many court cases and additional legislation.

From Johnson v McIntosh (1823) (*“Even if it should be admitted that the Indians were originally an independent people, they have ceased to be so. A nation that has passed under the dominion of another, is no longer a sovereign state.”*) to the better known pronouncement by Chief Justice Marshall in Cherokee Nation v. Georgia (1831), of *“domestic dependent nations.”*

Though the Indians are acknowledged to have an unquestionable, and, heretofore, unquestioned right to the lands they occupy, until that right shall be extinguished by a voluntary cession to our government; yet it may well be doubted whether those tribes which reside within the acknowledged boundaries of the United States can, with strict accuracy, be denominated foreign nations.

They may, more correctly, perhaps, be denominated domestic dependent nations. They occupy a territory to which we assert a title independent of their will, which must take effect in point of possession when their right of possession ceases. Meanwhile they are in a state of pupilage. Their relation to the United States resembles that of a ward to his guardian.

And then in 1832 with Worcester v. Georgia, (*“The Indian nations had always been considered as distinct, independent political communities, retaining their original natural rights, as the undisputed possessors of the soil, from time immemorial.”*) one can see the seeds of dissent within the Courts and the imprecision of word usage, tribes v nations.

Add to this a very convoluted Congressional legislative history often reflecting 180 degree shifts in public opinion and one has either a

lifetime of study and research or a wonderful tapestry onto which to add their own incarnation.

Skipping about a hundred years of fascinating/abhorrent machinations, we come to the **Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (IRA)**, President Roosevelt's **“New Deal”** for the American Indians. Conceived and shepherded by John Collier, Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) who saw the only way tribes would survive in the evolution of an agricultural to industrial era was to become corporations.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) issued in the IRA formulation of tribal constitutions and bylaws. Some tribes contemplated and deliberated very hard; others just **“accepted”** the mimeographed outline sent to them.

**Note:** Each **“recognized”** tribe's resultant charter is a wonderful epic which I encourage each group to include in their curriculums. But back to the main thread.

One of the most important aspects of IRA Constitutions is the membership clause. In re-recognizing the sovereignty of tribes, Congress also paid homage to the knowledge that traditionally tribes had had their own internal method of determining nation/tribe/clan/family membership based upon hundreds of years understanding of genetics.

In some circumstances, Indian personnel of a different ethnic origin/territory might be serving on a reservation and be counted in the 1930 census (*used as a baseline in many areas for membership eligibility*) and thus become members of that tribe.

**Many tribes adopted blood quantum** requirements which have continued to be controversial and divisive. Some require **“blood”** of that specific tribe; other just **“Indian blood”**. Most Oklahoma tribes recognize **“descendance.”** Again, there is a wide swath of difference, important to recognize that each group differs, each was (theoretically) to charter their own destiny.

And on the sidelines, the non-Indian are divided. **“Supporters”** believe it is a community de-



cision; **“detractors”** see it as a way to **“dilute”** people into not being Indian, thus having no Indians, thus mineral, water, grazing and land rights may be extinguished.

From the appointment of Justice Kavanaugh to Trump's diatribes about Elizabeth Warren one can see these discussions rising to Court and Executive branch controversies. And the third branch, Congress.....?

This is not an editorial column. It is about education. The point of it is **EDUCATE YOURSELF. VOTE.**

This election holds many implications for the tribal people of the United States. And given our **“one-worldness”** today, it holds implications for all tribes of the continent.

**EDUCATE YOUR CHILDREN.**

Make sure your youth know their tribal heritage as well as their political history. Know the interaction with former European powers as it impacted during the years of first contact. Know the impact of the Constitution; know the impact of territorial law; know the impact of state formation. Know the impact of Congressional legislation since 1789. Know the Court decisions, small and supreme.

**EDUCATE YOUR NON-INDIAN COMMUNITY.**

If they don't have this knowledge also, they will be at the mercy of an ill-informed or biased

## Should Illegal Immigrants Be Eligible for Social Security Benefits?

## SAVE THE DATE

2021 National Native American Languages Summit

### Native Communities Leading and Taking Control of their Native Languages

VIRTUAL EVENT

November 18, 2021 2:00pm – 6:00pm EST  
November 19, 2021 2:00pm – 6:00pm EST

There is no registration fee for the NNALS. To register go to:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-national-native-american-language-summit-virtual-tickets-171225910307>

For more information, please contact ron.lessard@ed.gov



With Thanksgiving approaching  
**REMEMBER TO THANK  
KELLI STAVAST**



**FOR THE WONDERFUL GIFT OF  
“LET'S GO BRANDON”**

## TWENTIETH-CENTURY INDIAN WAR DIARY

**WORLD WAR I: 1914-18**  
12,000 Indians serve, nearly all as volunteers

**WORLD WAR II: 1939-45**  
25,000 Indians serve

**KOREAN WAR: 1950-53**  
10,000-15,000 Indians serve

**VIETNAM WAR: 1961-75**  
42,500 Indians serve

**PERSIAN GULF WAR: 1990-91**  
3,000 Indians serve in operation “Desert Storm”



# The Last Lakota Code Talker

*Editor's Note: In 2008, the Code Talkers Recognition Act was passed, honoring all Native Americans who used their native language to aid communications in World War II. Clarence Wolf Guts died June 16, 2010, at the age of 86.*

This story is revised from the May/June 2007 issue of South Dakota Magazine By Bernie Hunhoff.

Contributed by Andrea Marquez, Soboba Indian Reservation CA

Clarence Wolf Guts was not the sort of hero who capitalized on his exploits; he never wrote any books or ran for office, and you could count his speaking appearances on one hand. When we met him in 2007, he was living almost as simply as he did when he was a boy on the Rosebud Reservation in the 1920s.

Much about Clarence Wolf Guts is confusing, beginning with his name. He didn't know what he was called when he was born on Feb. 26, 1924 in the Red Leaf community on the Rosebud Reservation of south-central South Dakota. His birth certificate listed him as Eagle Elk, but his father and uncles soon decided to give him a more unusual name — Wolf Guts.

He learned Lakota from his grandfather, Hawk Ghost, and his grandmother, Hazel Medicine Owl. *"My grandfather taught me the facts of life and the Lakota language,"* he said. *"He told me 'you'll go to school and stay in school.' But he also said to speak Indian because 'you'll need it later in life.'"*

He and a cousin, Iver Crow Eagle, left the boarding school they attended in St. Francis in the eleventh grade to fight in World War II. *"I didn't know if I could make the physical in Omaha,"* he said. *"I had a perforated ear drum. I guess a bug got in there when I was a little kid. My grandmother took tweezers and pulled the bug out, and hurt my ear drum."*

But it was 1942, and the U.S. Army wasn't fussy. The cousins were assigned to hand-to-hand combat training in Tennessee, desert exercises in Arizona, and finally to Ranger training at Camp Rucker in Alabama.

Wolf Guts recalled with considerable detail the day he became an important player in the war effort. A captain came to his barracks and asked, *"You talk Indian?"*

*"I am Indian. One hundred percent Indian."*

*"Well, the general wants to see you."*

*"Me?"* wondered Clarence. *"What in the world did I do now?"*

The captain told him to get a haircut, take a shower and dress in his best clothes. He also offered tips on military etiquette: stand two feet from the general, salute, say your name, rank and serial number.

Then he and the captain went to see the general. *"Sir, this is Clarence Wolf Guts from South Dakota,"* said the captain. *"He talks Indian."*

Major General Paul Mueller, commander of the U.S. Army's 81<sup>st</sup> Infantry, poured glasses of whiskey for the three of them, and told Clarence he wanted a man-to-man talk — *"none of this 'sir' or 'general.' Just talk to me like a man."*

*"Can you speak Indian fluently?"* the general asked. Clarence said he could *"read, write and speak the Lakota Sioux language."* Satisfied, the general explained that the Japanese were intercepting vital communications, and he intended to confuse them by sending messages in a Native American language.

Clarence told the general, *"I don't want no rank, I don't want no money. I just want to do what I can to protect America and our way of life."*

*"I've never seen or met an Indian before,"* the general said. *"You guys were first in this country?"*

*"Yes, supposedly we were,"* replied Clarence.

Gen. Mueller said he liked his spunk. Then he asked if he knew of any other soldiers who spoke Lakota. Clarence said his cousin, Iver, was also at Camp Rucker, whereupon Gen. Mueller exclaimed, *"I hit the jackpot!"*

Two other Lakota from South Dakota — Roy Bad Hand and Benny White Bear — were also recruited. The four learned how to operate military radios, and they worked with officials to develop coded messages. They developed a phonetic alphabet and assigned military meanings to common words like turtle, tree or horse. Their communications helped the army to move troops and supplies without tipping off the enemy.

Clarence was Gen. Mueller's personal code talker and traveled with him and the 81<sup>st</sup> as the division moved from island to island in the Pacific, headed for Japan.

Iver accompanied the general's chief of staff. Even though they had special protection — two bodyguards were assigned to each code talker — Clarence still shakes when he thinks of the bullets, mortars and bombs.

Frustrated by a language they didn't know, the Japanese made special efforts to find the code talkers.

Some code talkers in other units later said that if their outfit was overrun, the bodyguards were expected to shoot the code talkers to prevent their capture by the enemy.

Clarence and Iver never spoke of that, but they had enough to worry about.

*"How will we ever survive this?"* Iver asked Clarence on a particularly harrowing day. Clarence replied, *"There is a God. He is protecting us."*

Thoughts of the Rosebud Reservation provided some comfort. *"I always wondered if they had food on the table, if they're dancing, if they're remembering us,"* he said.

Clarence started to drink heavily in the army. *"We went to war and war is hell,"* he said. *"All I can say is we*

*went to hell and back."* He and many others found at least temporary relief in the bottle. *"It's easier that way to take another man's life,"* he said.

As radio operators, they had access to another avenue of escape. *"We could tune in the radio to the U.S. and get western music from San Francisco,"* said the old soldier. *"We could hear You Are My Sunshine and Chattanooga Choo Choo."*

They even got some kicks while on duty. Clarence started laughing one day while transmitting a message to Iver. *"Are you laughing at me?"* asked Iver. *"No, I'm laughing at the Japanese who are trying to listen to us,"* Clarence said in Lakota.

Decades later, a Japanese general admitted that his country's top cryptographers couldn't decipher the code talkers' language. When told it was Native American he replied, *"Thank you. That is a puzzle I thought would never be solved."*

When the war ended, Clarence and about a dozen other Lakota code talkers returned to the reservation. They were not welcomed home with parades or programs, but he and a few soldiers held their own party, dancing and singing a song of thanks that they'd learned from Indian elders.

Asked about it many years later, he said the dance of thanks wasn't for the dancers. *"We did it for our people and the people of the United States of America. It was for them, and for the people of the world, because if the Japanese ever took over the world, we would be dead."*

Code talkers from other Indian tribes were asked to not talk about their unique roles in the war, perhaps because the U.S. military thought it was a trick worth saving.

All written reports about the code talkers were classified. Clarence didn't remember being told to keep his service record a secret, but he and his fellow Lakota soldiers, happy to be home on the Rosebud Reservation, told no one. They didn't think of their services as particularly heroic. Like many veterans, they tried to forget.

*"I wanted to be a rodeo man,"* he said. I rode three bulls, and then I said *"I'll stick to horses.' Those bulls can kill you."* He was a bronc rider at rodeos in Valentine, Gordon, Rapid City, White River, Fort Pierre and other West River cow towns.

He earned \$100 on a good weekend, but spent it on alcohol and gas to get to the next rodeo. In 1949 he broke his ankle at Cody, Neb. and soon retired from the arena.

A year later he married Allgenia Brown. They had two daughters and a son before divorcing in 1959.

He worked on farms and ranches,



on or near the reservation. Heavy drinking kept him from accomplishing very much; and it also caused his greatest sorrow. He attributes both of his daughter's deaths to alcohol, and he says many of his other relatives suffer from alcoholism.

But his life took a turn when the silence surrounding the role of the code talkers was lifted. It began when the military declassified official information about its linguistic trickery.

Then Max Collins wrote a book, Wind Talkers, about two Navajo code talkers. The book became a hit movie in 2002. The U.S. Congress awarded congressional gold and silver medals to the Navajo soldiers, and the story spread.

Over a hundred code talkers were identified from 17 tribes. Unfortunately, by then almost all the other code talkers had died. Clarence Wolf Guts, just by the good fortune of staying alive, became one of the most acclaimed WWII vets in South Dakota.

He received an honorary degree from Oglala Lakota College. He rode in the Rapid City American Legion parade, traveled to Oklahoma City as a special guest at the opening of a traveling exhibit on the code talkers, spoke at the American Indian Veterans Conference in Wisconsin and was honored at a national WWII conference in New Orleans where he was given a red, white and blue "flag" shirt.

South Dakota's congressional delegation — Senators Tim Johnson and John Thune, and Rep. Stephanie Herseth — introduced a bill to award him and the other forgotten code talkers the Congressional Gold Medal.

Clarence traveled to Washington with the South Dakota Indian leaders, including Don Lowdner, the national commander of the American Indian Veterans Association of the United States, to testify for the legislation.

Clarence looked as uncomfortable at the senate committee hearing as the senators would look riding a bucking horse. His dark face was wrinkled and creased. His legs were so cramped that he could hardly stand. His hair was white and scruffy. Still, he spoke simple, heartfelt words to the lawmakers. *"I am a full-blood Indian, and we do whatever we can to protect the United States because we love America,"* he said. *"Nobody can ever take that away from us."*

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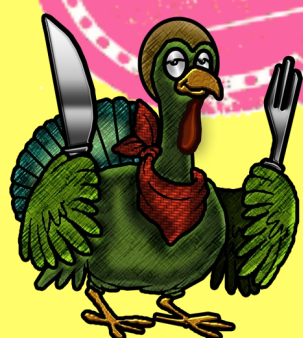
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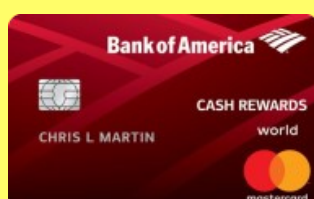


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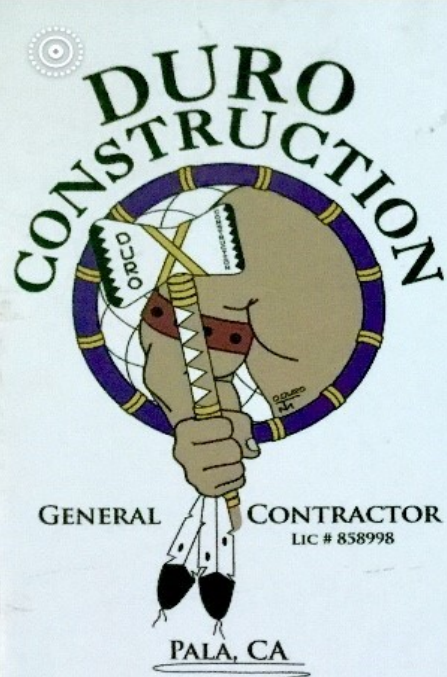
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