

SAC and FOX NEWS



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Chief's Address To The Nation

Aho! Sac and Fox Nation:
This month I report on news from the national scene in Indian Country.

Invitation to President Barack Obama's Visit to Oklahoma - Stillwater - March 22, 2012. I received via email from Charles Galbraith, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, an invitation to be a guest of the President of the United States at his Oklahoma stop and to be one of the few to meet him afterwards.

The event was by invitation only and not transferable. Only 150 people received invitations to the President's speech.



Chief George Thurman
On location during the President's visit to Cushing.
(photo by Michael Dodson)

The VIP Arrival Information memorandum instructed guests to be at the Ripley School parking lot no later than 8:30 a.m. to take a shuttle to the event site where a designated contact person would

provide our seating arrangement. Regarding security measures for the presidential visit the memo said, "Guests should be prepared for airport-like security and are advised to plan accordingly for lines and delays. Guests are asked to bring as few personal items as possible. No large bags, sharp objects, liquids, or signs will be allowed in the venue. Cameras are permitted. Once at the Pipe Yard and off the shuttle, please connect with [contact person] to be seated. Your greet with the President will occur after the President's remarks."

The President bestowed a great honor on our Sac and Fox Nation as only a select few were allowed to meet him personally. He visited not only Cushing, Oklahoma but also the northern jurisdictional boundaries of our sovereign Sac and Fox Nation.

The President's remarks concerned the southern section of the Keystone XL Pipeline that crosses our jurisdictional boundaries. Our Sac and Fox Nation has opposed this by resolution. The Associated Press followed up with an interview on March 23rd about the reasons our Nation has taken the stance of opposition. The story will run nationally as well as in Canada. Even though there was not enough time to visit with him personally during his visit, I know the President will learn of our concerns.

Testimony before Congress. I traveled to Washington DC on March 26-27, 2012 to testify before Congress. **It was a tremendous honor to have this opportunity to put the Nation's issues and requests before them.**

TESTIMONY OF GEORGE L. THURMAN
PRINCIPAL CHIEF OF THE SAC AND FOX NATION
BEFORE THE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
ON THE FY 2013 BUDGET FOR
AMERICAN INDIAN/NATIVE ALASKAN PROGRAMS

MARCH 27, 2012

Chairman Simpson and distinguished Members of the Committee, my name is George L. Thurman, and I am the Principal Chief of the Sac and Fox Nation. I thank you for the opportunity to present the Sac and Fox Nation's testimony before this esteemed Committee. We appreciate your dedication to righting the wrongs our people suffered in the past and suffer in the present. Thank you for supporting the increases for Indian programs. We understand the fiscal constraints of the Country and together we can provide a future that has many opportunities for self-sufficiency through Self-Governance.

Sac and Fox Nation Tribal Specific Budget Requests:

>Add \$ 4.8 million to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Detentions/Corrections to Fully Fund the Sac & Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center

>Direct the Assistant Secre-

tary-Indian Affairs to Continue the Federal Corporate Charter for Sac and Fox -Support Tribal Economic Development

National Budget Requests:

BIA

*CSC: Fully Fund \$8.8 million increase included in President's request

*Fixed Costs/Pay Costs: Fully Fund - Provide \$13.7 million increase

*Fully fund all provisions of the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010

*Do not consolidate the Office of Self-Governance; must remain stand-alone

IHS

*CSC: \$99.4 million over President's request

*Mandatory Costs: \$304 million increase to maintain current services

*Indian Health Care Improvement Fund: \$45 million increase

*Contract Health Costs: \$200 million increase

*Alcohol and Substance Abuse: \$40 million increase

*Office of Tribal Self-Governance: \$5 million increase

> Support the Requests of the National Indian Health Board

> Support the Requests of the National Congress of American Indians

About the Sac and Fox Nation

The Sac and Fox Nation is headquartered in Stroud, Oklahoma, and our Tribal jurisdictional area covers Lincoln, Payne, and Pottawatomie Counties. Of the 4,000 enrolled Tribal members, 2,600 live in Oklahoma. We are proud to pay tribute to a Sac and Fox descendent and Great Native American, Jim Thorpe. One of the most revered Olympic athletes who have ever represented the United States; Mr. Thorpe won the pentathlon and decathlon in the 1912 Olympics.

Tribal Specific Budget Requests - \$4.8 Million for Juvenile

Detention Center

The passage of the Tribal Law and Order Act was applauded by the Sac & Fox Nation because we

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President Barak Obama during his recent visit to Cushing, Oklahoma to address concerns of the Keystone Pipeline (photo KFOR)

Chief George Thurman Meets President Barack Obama

Sandra Massey NAGPRA

Sac and Fox Nation Principal Chief George Thurman was one of only 20 guests to meet President of the United States Barack Obama during the president's visit to the Cushing, Oklahoma area on Thursday, March 22, 2012. Chief Thurman was one of only 150 to receive an invitation to attend President Obama's speech about the Cushing extension of the Keystone XL pipeline that would transport crude oil from the storage tanks in rural Cushing to the Texas coast.

Because of the proposed pipeline's location in historic territory of the Sac and Fox Nation, Chief Thurman had hoped to have more of an opportunity to express his concerns to President Obama, but the face-to-face meeting was too brief. The president's short visit to Oklahoma began with his arrival on Air Force One at Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City on the night of March 21st. On the morning of March 22nd he took Marine One to the Cushing airport where security included tribal police officers. A motorcade rushed the president from the airport along Highway 18 to the TransCanada pipe yard near Ripley where the invited guests waited under heavy security.

"We know the government will want to put a rush on this," Thurman said. "We have burials around the Cushing area that

could be affected, including the graves of smallpox victims."

Not all the grave sites known to exist are identified. They are from the era when the Sac and Fox arrived in Indian Territory in 1869 and used different methods of burial. Mass graves are the resting sites of smallpox victims, but burials for others followed tribal custom and were along the banks of creeks. The Sac and Fox burial practices were in a transitional period and some adopted the current cemetery system. Families maintained their own cemeteries.

Prior to 1869 the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Seminole Nation, and the Caddo Tribe resided on the land now claimed by the Sac and Fox Nation, whose jurisdiction includes Payne, Lincoln, and Pottawatomie counties in Oklahoma. Cushing is located in Payne County.

Northern tribes have already reported leaks in the pipeline in their tribal lands. Concerns about a leaking pipeline in tribal territory are the disruption to burial and ceremonial sites, the damage to water and soil, deforestation, and accountability.

In August 2010 the Sac and Fox Nation passed a resolution in support of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe's opposition to the pipeline based on the same grounds.

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Sac and Fox Nation Breaks Ground for New Cultural Center

Officials and members of the Sac and Fox Nation took part in a ground-breaking ceremony conducted March 5 for the new 6,400 sq. ft. Sac and Fox Nation Cultural Center.

The site for the cultural center is located between the Sac and Fox National Library and the government offices, 5.5 miles south of Stroud on Highway 99.

The cultural center will house

tribal archives, a language lab and classrooms, repatriation office, an office for a veteran's representative, a conference room and other offices.

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Sac and Fox Nation Cultural Center Groundbreaking: (Left to Right) Wilson Harjo, Veteran; Dennis Jennings, Veteran; Orvena (Twiggy) Gregory, Carla Reed, Treasurer; Stella Nullake, Committee Member; Jacklyn Williams, Secretary; Paula Williams, Tribal Administrator; Harry Walker Jr., Veteran; George Thurman, Principal Chief Sac and Fox Nation; Kathy Platt, Library Director; Jacob Manatowa-Bailey, Language Director; Sandra Massey, NAGPRA; and Raymond Pennock, Veteran.

(Photo by Boyd Cummings, Information Technician)

Upcoming Events

Elders Activities

Planned

April

Tues & Weds

Plastic Canvas Classes

Elders Bldg

Wednesday

April 11, 2012

Elders Meeting

10am

Shawnee

Tuesday

April 10, 2012

Sac & Fox Nation

Veterans' Meeting

5pm

Elders Bldg Stroud

Saturday, May 5

Mothers Day Dance

Saturday, May 26

Memorial Day

Pow-wow

For information contact

Gloria Ellis EAB

Chairperson @

405-878-8534

or Stella Wilson Sac and Fox

Elders Bldg. (Stroud @

918-968-2583 Tues-Thurs.

8:00am - 4:30pm