

## Chief's Address to the Nation

From Page 1

"Every Memorial Day we honor the men and women who have served our country in the armed forces, and today's legislation would allow for construction of a memorial on the National Mall so that people from across the country can honor the extraordinary contributions and sacrifices of our Native American veterans," said Senator Schatz. The legislation is supported by the National Congress of American Indians. "It is essential that we fulfill Senator Inouye and Indian Country's vision for a memorial to honor the service and sacrifice of our Native American service members. NCAI supports the amendments to the Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act of 1994,

which will make the memorial a reality and allow for it to be built on the property of the National Museum of the American Indian," said Jefferson Keel, President of NCAI and a decorated veteran.

"Most importantly, this bill allows for more flexibility for tribal nations and the United States to work together to honor the contributions and sacrifices of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian military service members and veterans. As a Native veteran myself, I look forward to the day my fellow veterans are recognized for their contributions to protecting the sovereignty of tribal nations and the United States."

According to a 2012 report released by the Department of Veterans Affairs:

- \* More than 154,000 Veterans identify themselves as solely American Indian and Alaska Native

- \* Over 44,000 Native Americans served between 1941 and 1945. The entire population of Native Americans in the United States was less than 350,000 at the time

- \* More than 42,000 Native Americans served in the military in the Vietnam Era, and over 90 percent of these Service members were volunteers.

Kevin Gover, Pawnee, director of the National Museum of American Indians, said from his Washington office that he is excited about the Museum's involve-

ment.

"American Indians have participated in wars on behalf of the United States since the Revolutionary War at higher rates than any other groups. We have been true patriots. No other veterans' memorial recognizes the contributions of Native people," Gover said.

Gover said the first step will be for a "call for artists" for a competitive artist rendering the future Native American Veterans' Memorial.

I state once again that it is truly an honor and privilege to be able to lead our great Sac and Fox Nation. May God continue blessing us.

Sincerely,  
George Thurman, Principal Chief

## Borough of Jim Thorpe Appeals Judges Decision

From Page 1

Borough is obligated under federal law to cooperate with a repatriation to the athlete's sons and the tribe.

Sandra K. Massey, the Nation's Historic Preservation Officer and a member of the tribe's NAGPRA Committee, provided the following statement:

"The Borough's decision to appeal is no surprise, although we had hoped the Borough would work with Jim Thorpe's sons and the Sac and Fox Nation to coordinate a private repatriation. Judge Caputo made a comprehensive and careful ruling about the applicability of

NAGPRA, and we believe his decision is faithful to NAGPRA.

"The Borough has stated in published reports that it has decided to appeal because an appeal will cost less than a repatriation. With standing as a "museum" for purposes of the statute, the Borough is eligible for a repatriation grant. One of the Borough's attorneys also stated that a repatriation would involve costly archaeological work. In this case, there is no need for any archaeological or scientific work, since the historic record is clear and conclusive. We know who

is buried at the Jim Thorpe gravesite. That's why we filed the case. Grants are available to both sides to defray the costs of repatriation. All that is needed for a repatriation is notice to the interested parties under the law, and an opportunity for them to provide their comments and preferences. This process ensures participation by all family members. The Sac and Fox Nation is willing to assist with the notices.

"The Borough may have other reasons to appeal, but their statements totally misconstrue and misrepresent NAGPRA

by saying a repatriation will be expensive. That is an inaccurate statement about the repatriation process and shows a total misunderstanding of the law.

"Many people across the nation and even in the Borough have expressed their support for this repatriation. The residents of the Borough appeared to make their decision by not showing up in mass at the recent meeting. It appears to be the Borough officials who are making this process more costly by spending public money on an appeal that does not need to be spent."

**Jim Thorpe**  
*Memorial Park*  
Bright Path  
**SAUK WALK & 5K RUN**

**LOCATION:**  
Jim Thorpe Memorial Park  
Sac & Fox Nation  
Stroud, OK

**DATE:**  
July 11, 2013 (THUR)  
5K Run - 9:00 am  
Sauk Walk - 10:00 am

**HOSTED BY:**  
Sac & Fox Nation  
Food Distribution Program  
Contact: 918 - 968 - 3030

**SUPPORTED BY:**  
USDA  
Food & Nutrition Services  
Southwest Regional Office

**FREE T-SHIRT**

**USDA**  
**SAC & FOX NATION**  
**LET'S MOVE!**

**SAUK WALK & 5K RUN**

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call toll free (866) 629-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.