

# Chief's Address To The Nation

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started our district's use of specially trained forensic interviewers and pediatricians in the process of interviewing preteen victims of sexual abuse. This process was designed to help obtain reliable testimony without further traumatizing the child. Arvo prosecuted some of the hardest cases brought to our office. Arvo prosecuted fairly and played by the rules."

Acknowledging the nomination protocol of consultation with state senators and representatives, Webber said in the interview, "If Senator Coburn was not properly consulted by White House staff, it shouldn't be held against the nominee. The day after Arvo's nomination, President Obama singled Senator Coburn out of the crowd at the national prayer breakfast as someone with whom he wanted to find common ground."

"Arvo's nomination should provide such an opportunity. Any staff errors, no matter which side may have made them, should not overshadow Arvo's stellar qualifications. I hope the nomination will be considered on its merits. If it is, I am confident Arvo will be confirmed to the federal bench."

Letter from a Tribal Leader to President Obama. My personal opinion is that the following letter reveals the sentiments of many tribal leaders:

## Indian Country to Barack Black Eagle: "Deliver Real Tribal Empowerment"

By Robert Odawi Porter

In December of last year, President Obama invited leaders from all 565 federally recognized American Indian nations and tribes to Washington for the second Tribal Nations Conference. More than one of us wondered what the true purpose of the meeting was. Without question, credit should be given to the President and his Indian affairs team for convening this event. Rare is it for any president to convene even one such meeting during his term, much less two and the promise for more.

The Obama Indian affairs team appears to be responding to the priority issues raised at last year's tribal leaders summit.

Of course, President Obama is not our national chief and it is not his job to decide what is best for us. We tribal leaders should be providing specific and targeted policy initiatives to the White House to be implemented on our behalf. Instead, one of our lead lobbying organizations—the National Congress of American Indians submitted over 60 pages of policy suggestions to the President on every imaginable topic and concern of Indian Country but the kitchen sink.

Which is one reason why Indian Country's policy voice is weak right now. With so many policy options thrown at the White House, the Obama team is free to pick and choose which issues are pursued, ignored, or given mere lip service. This blitz approach typically ends up in a dither over how to get Congress to appropriate

more money for Indian programs and pay the bill for past injustices. Because most Indian nations remain economically devastated from the theft of our lands and sovereign authority, federal appropriations often are the only "economy" in Indian Country. But have no illusion that taking such an approach does little to change our condition over time. For an increasing number of Indian nations and tribes, our goal is not simply to maintain the status quo, but to actually improve the lives of our people and make our nations stronger. Since our first contact with European settlers in our lands, we have largely failed in our efforts to resist their systemic efforts to transfer tribally-controlled wealth to non-Indians. Tribal gaming has provided a notable departure from this destructive trend, but a long-term solution to Indian economic underdevelopment requires far more bold and ambitious action. What Indian Country needs is real tribal economic empowerment so we can take better care of our people. One thing all tribal leaders can agree upon—tribal nations and peoples need more money to sustain and revitalize our societies. But in a deficit era, we've got to pursue our bankroll in the private sector rather than the federal purse.

Why is more money important to Indians? Because we need money to crawl out of the hole of 200 years of forced poverty that the United States has inflicted on us by taking our power and authority over our own lands. If we have money, we have a real chance to resolve problems such as the ill health, domestic violence, teen suicide, and language loss that afflict our tribal societies. Poor people are confronted with poor choices and we need to improve the quality of life on our territories so our people will have better choices.

So, how can we stem the flow of wealth away from tribal lands and people to non-Indians? To begin with, reservation Indians should be restored to our constitutional status and be immunized from all taxes. It is absurd that tribal wealth is sent to the federal government in the form of income and excise taxes only to be sent back in the form of federal Indian program money to support tribal economies. We should keep that money in our own nations as disposable income or contributions to our own tribal governments.

In addition, income earned and invested on tribal lands by non-Indians should also be immunized from all taxation. Non-Indians should be given significant tax credits for investments made on Indian lands and additional incentives for energy and natural resource development to convince Wall Street to invest in Indian Country. Only then will governing tribal nations be able to develop their own tax base and require the hiring, the employ of Native people.

If the United States can tolerate outsourcing jobs to the country of India, it can support in-sourcing of jobs to Indian Country.

Because of the nature of this agenda—to reverse the historic transfer of wealth away from Indian Country—we need a powerful ally to help us. That ally should be President Obama. But he and his Indian affairs team must realize that there is no middle ground when it comes to fighting for real tribal empowerment. We have many enemies who right now seek nothing more than our continued impoverishment and the destruction of our tribal sovereignty. We don't need a timid, "nice guy" approach to these challenges; we need a warrior.

The heart of a tribal empowerment agenda is rooted in the simple fact that when Indian people exchanged land-for-peace with the American people, we did not bargain for generations of poverty and dysfunction. Nor did we bargain for the loss of sovereign control over our own land and what happens on it. There is no reason why Indian people cannot be as prosperous as non-Indians. But we need bold, aggressive action from President Obama to support a legislative agenda that will begin to remove the non-Indian tax, non-Indian regulation and non-Indian



Sac and Fox Principal Chief George Thurman and Meskwaki Tribal Chairman Adrian Pushetonequa discussed common interests during the latter's visit to Oklahoma.

control over Indian Country that continues to sap our sovereign strength and steal our wealth.

If President Obama can wade into fights for trillion dollar bail-out packages for Wall Street and war-fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, I would hope he would be willing to commit a fraction of that effort to helping us repair the 200 years worth of damage that America has inflicted on its indigenous peoples. We don't want a bail-out. We want our sovereign authority to be fully respected, without exception or dilution, so that all these tax and regulatory burdens are lifted and we can begin to regain our wealth in the private sector economy.

Robert Odawi Porter is the President of the Seneca Nation of Indians.

Sincerely,  
George Thurman, Principal Chief

# Humanities Award

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Upon notice of the Oklahoma Humanities Award recognition, Runnels said, "Receiving the 2011 Oklahoma Humanities Council's Education Award galvanizes my desire to see American Indian history and traditions preserved. Knowing the history of the people who lived in North America long before us is important to understanding the path we will travel in the future."

Manatowa-Bailey said, "I'm very appreciative that the Oklahoma Humanities Council chose to give its 'Humanities in Education' Award to a project that highlights endangered languages."

Principal Chief George Thurman stated, "The Sac and Fox Nation congratulates our tribal members and everyone else involved in receiving such a high honor for their work in the protection and preservation of tribal languages. We are grateful to the Oklahoma Humanities Council for its recognition of this important work, recognition that advances awareness of our unique tribal languages. Our language is part of what makes us a people." The Oklahoma Humanities Council



Language teacher Orvena Gregory and AIRC Coordinator Teresa Runnels, both tribal members, were present for the Oklahoma Humanities Council awards presentation in February. Runnels accepted the "Humanities in Education" Award on behalf of the AIRC Native Languages Packet which features the Sauk language.

website states, "The Oklahoma Humanities Awards honor outstanding contributions of individuals, organizations, and projects to the understanding of the humanities in Oklahoma."

# MEMORIAL DAY POWWOW

## SAC & FOX VETERANS

### ...: HONOR GUARD ::..

# May 28, 2011 (Sat)

(RAIN or SHINE: SFN Powwow Grounds 5.5 miles South of Stroud on HWY 99)

HEAD STAFF

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:	SAMMY TONKEI WHITE
HONOR GUARD:	MUSCOGEE CREEK VETERANS
HOST GOURD CLAN:	COMANCHE LITTLE PONIES
HOST DRUM:	WILDHORSE SINGERS (SFN)
HEADMAN DANCER:	CHUB MCCLELLAN
HEADLADY DANCER:	SHAYLAH MILLER

PROGRAM

2:00 PM	GOURD DANCE
5:00 PM	TRADITIONAL MEAL
6:15 PM	GOURD DANCE
7:00 PM	GRAND ENTRY

(Meal Provided By SFN Women's Auxiliary)

## DRUM CONTEST

\$500 + Blanket!!!

All Drums Welcome!  
The Drum Contest will be judged by the Wild Horse Singers. Wild Horse will make the rules for this contest.

## PRINCESS SELECTION

SFN Veterans Princess for 2011-2012 will be selected & crowned. All candidates will be asked to submit a bio to show lineage of Sac & Fox descent & be present in regalia.

SAC & FOX NATION IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS OR THEFT

## Sac & Fox Nation

Johnson O'Malley/Higher Education/Adult Vocational Training

920883 S. Highway 99 Stroud, OK 74079

### NEW PROGRAMS! NEW PROGRAMS!

The Sac and Fox Nation Education Department is pleased to announce the availability of the following new college programs for tribal members:

- College Tuition Assistance Grant
- College Book Assistance Grant
- College Living Allowance
- College Laptop Scholarship

The tuition and book assistance grants are also available to concurrently enrolled high school students.

In addition, we are also now offering two other programs:

- 12th Grade Graduation Grant - assists with expenses related to Class Ring, Senior Pictures, Cap and Gown and Graduation Announcements
- Vo-Tech Tuition Assistance Grant - assists with tuition expenses related to short-term (at least 3 weeks in duration) job-skills related courses

Program guidelines and forms will be posted soon to the Education Department page on the Nation's website or you can call or come by the Education Department office to receive a copy.

The Education Department is very excited to be allowed to offer these new programs to tribal members. If you have any questions, please call us at 918-968-0509.