



Nemishâtenemo êhthâkiwiyâni

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Chief Kay Rhoads Address To The Nation



Elizabeth Kay Rhoads
Principal Chief
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During the State of the Nation Address by President Obama, he addressed the effects of climate change on the people and the need to address the problem now. He introduced the Clean Power Plan to cut harmful carbon pollution from the power sector that's fueling climate change. By setting the first-ever national standards to limit carbon pollution from power plants, the largest single source of U.S. carbon pollution, it will improve the health of Americans across the country, create clean energy jobs, and help households and businesses save on their energy bills. Other government departments are exploring ways to help improve the environment as well and implement processes to slow down global warming.

Climate change is a term that most people have heard but why should we be concerned? Global warming is a real issue that impacts our daily lives. It affects our health, weather, economic base, ecosystem and quality of life. As Native People the impact of climate has already impacted our traditions by limiting our food supplies such as the Indian corn production and other cultivated crops as well as fish, game and wild life. The reduction in these food sources, the growth and survival of native plants of the areas will have an impact on our tradition-

al harvesting and gathering of materials used for our cultural, medicinal, economic, and community health that we have used for generations.

We have all noticed the extreme heat over the last few years and this is expected to increase in the future. Higher temperatures contribute to the formation of harmful air pollutants, allergens, droughts and depletion of our water sources. The change in the climate has affected our weather causing more extreme conditions as witnessed in more powerful tornados, heavier flooding, more hurricanes, earthquakes and wildfires.

The projected increase in high temperature extremes and heat waves have negatively affected livestock, farming and gardening that is necessary to sustain our way of life. As the temperature increases the water levels are lowered in lakes, rivers, streams, ponds and our aquifers. Better conservation efforts to provide water for plants and animals will increase the cost to farmers which is then passed on to the consumers. We have all seen the increased prices as we shop at our local grocery stores.

For rural and tribal communities, remote locations and limited local services present greater challenges in responding to climate extremes. Older populations are at much higher risk of dying during extreme heat events. Pre-existing health conditions also make older adults susceptible to cardiac and respiratory impacts of air pollution and to more severe consequences from infectious diseases. More people are suffering from allergies; the percentage of Americans with asthma has doubled in the past three decades. These health conditions are requiring more trips to the doctor, pharmacy or hospitals to relieve the symptoms resulting in increased medical cost.

The third U.S. National Climate Assessment Highlights reports: "Observed climate-induced changes have been linked to changing timing of flowering, increases in wildfire activity and pest outbreaks, shifts in species distributions, declines in the abundance of native species, and the spread of invasive species. Variation in the timing and magnitude of precipitation due to climate change was found to decrease the nutritional quality of grasses." All of these issues affect our way of life as the threat of more pests attacking our crops and animals. More pesticides are being used to protect the crops and that is proving to be detrimental to the good insects that pollenate our crops and bring more chemicals to our food and water supplies. The warmer temperatures bring more mosquitos that are carrying new strains of disease affecting the health of our families and animals.

As Indian people our natural ways of life is being eroded not just here in Oklahoma but throughout the world. What can we do to reduce climate change? Small actions can help. The Sac and Fox USDA Office have installed solar panels in the warehouse to help cut down on

energy use. The Housing Authority installed new doors and windows to help reduce energy use in our tribal member homes. The Office of Environmental Services set up a recycling program to collect paper, plastic and aluminum to eliminate pollution to our lands and air quality.

Energy is one source to address the climate change but other programs have to be developed to adjust to the climate change. We have to be concerned about how we protect the air, water, and land. The Sac and Fox Nation is looking at how to improve the quality of lands in our area by implementing conservation efforts. We have applied for a grant to help eradicate the invasive species of red cedar trees that is threatening our water supply by drinking up to 400 gallons of water a day. The abundance of cedar trees has destroyed a lot of farm and grazing land and increased the treat for wild fires. By clearing the land of the cedars, more land can be used by tribal members to lease or farm. Land improvement will restore the quality of the land, increasing economic development and restore the Nation's ability to farm and restore some of our traditional foods.

A Community Garden Program is being planned to help restore our traditional foods. A planning meeting is being set up on Feb 13, 2016 at the Sac and Fox Tribal Community Center to determine how many people are interested in being part of the garden project and to get the program started as spring approaches.

An Agricultural Program is also being developed to identify all the tribal farmers and producer in our tribal jurisdiction. This will also be open to land owners who may have land that has been overrun by cedar trees or other invasive plants and has prevented the owner from farming or leasing their property. Most farmers and ranchers want land that can be used for growing crops or pastures for cattle to graze. Many tribal members have not been able to lease their land or have received minimal lease revenue due to poor quality of land. The AG program will look at ways to improve the land and make it more productive. Zack Butler from the Inter-Tribal Agricultural Council will be hosting the meeting starting

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Sonny Masquat, Commander of the Sac and Fox Nation Honor Guard, was recently awarded a hand made quilt by Shelley Prewitt from the organization of "Quilts of Valor" (From Left) Paul Wolf, Dennis Hopkins, Bud McClellan, Sonny Masquat, Shelley Prewitt, Curtis "Dagwood" Wakolee and Austin Grant Jr. (SFNews Photo)

We Award You This Quilt of Valor

A letter from Katherine Caffey Oklahoma Request Coordinator/ Oklahoma State Coordinator

Our founder Catherine Roberts describes a Quilt of Valor as the civilian equivalent of a Purple Heart Award. Our quilts are awarded, not just handed out like a magazine or a video. This Quilt of Valor unequivocally says Thank You for your Service Sacrifice and Valor in Serving Our Nation.

As of today QOV has awarded 131,657 quilts since 2003. We are looking forward to having more join QOV, and seeing this number climb even higher over the next few years. Today I will add you're quilt to this list and this count.

We believe as we sew; love, caring and gratitude flow from our hearts through our hands into the developing quilt. We the quilters all want you to know that through our quilts you will forever be in our hearts and our quilting family.

"Warrior's Star" each quilt

is given a name to signify its individuality. There is no other quilt like yours and your name in on your QOV, so future generations in your family know what you have done for Our Country.

A Quilt of Valor does not judge. Its sole purpose is to honor, comfort and heal you for the sacrifice you made in serving our country. It is indeed an honor for us to wrap you in love, in one of these beautiful quilts.

On behalf of the Quilts of Honor Foundation, we serve honor and comfort upon you. Through we may never know the depth of your sacrifice to protect and defend the United States of America as a gesture of gratitude from a grateful Nation we ask that you accept your Quilt of Valor and the love that comes with it on this 12th day of January 2016.

ONAP Chooses HASFN as one of their Best Practices for the Year

Creating an effective team can mean a successful project with minimal complications. The Sac & Fox Nation Housing Authority (SFHA), Sac & Fox Nation, Bear Claw Construction, BancFirst, the SFHA general counsel, City of Shawnee, Pottawatomie County Officials and HUD collaborated and held a series of focus driven meetings to foster the progression of a loan through the Title VI loan process. Joint underwriting between the Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs and HUD's Office of

Loan Guarantee seamlessly provided on-going technical assistance to the partnership.

The collaboration resulted in the development of a \$2.5 million dollar apartment complex that will address 46% of the SFHA needs for immediate housing assistance. The \$1.5 million dollar NAHASDA Title VI Loan supplemented with an additional \$1 million in NAHASDA funding from the annual block grant for the SFHA means that 23 families will have a new place to call home.

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Upcoming Events

February 6

Winter Stomp Dance Benefit
6:00 pm - ?
Community Building

February 9

Sac and Fox Nation Veterans Meeting
Cultural Center

February 10

Sac and Fox Nation Elders Meeting
Stroud 10 am

February 13

Powwow Committee Sweetheart Dance
1:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Community Building

February 18

Sac & Fox Nation Womens Auxiliary

March 5

Governing Council
Community Building
10:00



Sac and Fox Casino is Stroud Chamber of Commerce "Business of the Month": (Front row from left) Stroud Chamber of Commerce Vice President Bob Pearman, Shift Manager Dereck Abney, Site Manager Robert Abney, Shift manager Mary Harjo and Stroud Chamber of Commerce Board Member Rick Craig. Back row: Snack Bar Lead Scott Murrison, Sac and Fox Nation Treasure and Stroud Chamber of Commerce Board Member Jared King and Sac and Fox Nation Casino General Manager Dusty Day.

(American Photo)