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TRIBAL MEMORANDUM

TO : SUPERINTENDENT, Cheyenne River Agency
FROM : Colette LeBeau Iron Hawk, Tribal Secretary *Colette LeBeau Iron Hawk* DATE: 6/13/01

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 132-01-CR: That the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe requests the United States Congress to review the history surrounding the December 29, 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre and either return those medals, renounce the issuance of said medals, and/or to proclaim that the medals are null and void, given the atrocities committed upon unarmed men, women, children and elderly of the Great Sioux Nation.

Transmitted herewith is an original and two (2) copies of Resolution No. 132-01-CR which was duly adopted by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council during its Regular Session held on June 8, 2001.

CIH/wc
CC: Chairman
Administrative Officer
Treasurer
Council Representatives
District Officers
Central Records
File/2

Senator Tom Daschle
Senator Tim Johnson
Rep. John Thune

The blue represents the thunder clouds above the world where live the thunder birds who control the four winds. The rainbow is for the Cheyenne River Sioux people who are keepers of the Most Sacred Calf Pipe, a gift from the White Buffalo Calf Maiden. The eagle feathers at the edges of the rim of the world represent the spotted eagle who is the protector of all Lakota. The two pipes fused together are for unity. One pipe is for the Lakota, the other for all the other Indian Nations. The yellow hoops represent the Sacred Hoop, which shall not be broken. The Sacred Calf Pipe Bundle in red represents Wakan Tanka - The Great Mystery. All the colors of the Lakota are visible. The red, yellow, black and white represent the four major races. The blue is for heaven and the green for Mother Earth.

RESOLUTION No. 132 -01-CR

- WHEREAS, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of South Dakota is an unincorporated Tribe of Indians having accepted the provisions of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984); and
- WHEREAS, the Tribe in order to establish its tribal organization, to conserve its tribal property, to develop its common resources, and to promote the general welfare of its people has ordained and established a Constitution and By-laws; and
- WHEREAS, the veterans and the elders of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, have presented information to the Veteran's Committee concerning Congressional Medals of Honor issued by the United States Congress to some 27 or so soldiers of the United States Army for their participation and direct involvement in the December 29, 1890 Massacre of Lakota (Sioux) men, women, children, and elderly on Tribal lands near Wounded Knee Creek; and
- WHEREAS, the Congressional Medal of Honor is the United States' highest award for valor, and a letter listing 27 of the names of the soldiers who were awarded a Medal of Honor for their participation and involvement is attached; and
- WHEREAS, Chief Big Foot and his Band were intercepted on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation at Porcupine Butte by Major Whitside, surrendered unconditionally under a white flag of truce and were escorted to Wounded Knee Creek, where Colonel James W. Forsyth assumed command; and
- WHEREAS, Colonel James W. Forsyth ordered his troops to surround these Lakota and to surrender their weapons, and the Seventh Cavalry searched and disarmed said Lakotas, and removed all items to the center of the camp, including small awls that were used for sewing and leatherwork; and
- WHEREAS, after disarming the Lakotas and searching all of their belongings for weapons of any sort, a shot rang out and the Seventh Cavalry opened fire indiscriminately and fired Hotchkiss cannons, killing and wounding over 300 unarmed men, women, children, and elderly Lakotas.
- WHEREAS, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe hereby requests that the United States Government take action to revoke the Congressional Medals of Honors from the soldiers of the United States Army, 7th Calvary, which were issued following the massacre of unarmed men, women, children,

and elderly of the Great Sioux Nation on December 29, 1890 near on Tribal Lands near Wounded Knee Creek; and

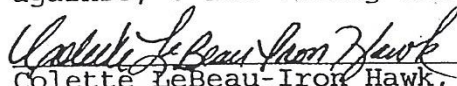
WHEREAS, the purposes of issuing a Congressional Medal of honor are to award "a person who, while a member of the [armed forces], distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty..." according to official U.S. government documents - Medal of Honor Recipients 1863-1878, "In the name of the Congress of the United States", U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, 96th Congress, 1st Session, Senate Committee Print No. 3; and

WHEREAS, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe requests the United States Government to review the history surrounding the December 29, 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre and either return those medals, renounce the issuance of said medals, and/or to proclaim that the medals are null and void, given the atrocities committed upon unarmed men, women, children and elderly of the Great Sioux Nation; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe requests the United States Congress to review the history surrounding the December 29, 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre, and either return those medals, renounce the issuance of said medals, and/or to proclaim that the medals are null and void, given the atrocities committed upon unarmed men, women, children and elderly of the Great Sioux Nation.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, certify that the Tribal Council is composed of fifteen (15) members, of whom 10, constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting, duly and regularly called, noticed, convened and held this 8th day of June 2001, Regular Session; and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by an affirmative vote of 10 for, 0 against, 0 not voting and 5 absent.



Colette LeBeau-Iron Hawk, Secretary
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

