



SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX COMMUNITY

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CHARLES R. VIG
Chairman

KEITH B. ANDERSON
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REBECCA CROOKS-STRATTON
Secretary/Treasurer

October 1, 2019

The Honorable Denny Heck
House of Representatives
2452 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Tribal Support for H.R. 3467

Dear Representative Heck:

On behalf of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (“SMSC”), I am writing to express our support for H.R. 3467, the Remove the Stain Act, a bill to rescind each of the twenty Medals of Honor awarded for the massacre carried out by U.S. military personnel at Wounded Knee Creek on December 29, 1890. Thank you for introducing this legislation. We urge prompt enactment of it by the House and Senate as an important step in beginning to correct our Country’s past wrong doings and in charting a new path forward based on mutual understanding and respect.

As you know, the Wounded Knee Massacre took the lives of more than 300 of our fellow Lakota men, women, and children who were outnumbered, unarmed, starving, and ill-prepared for war. In 1990, Congress took the first step in rectifying this wrong by passing a resolution to officially recognize this horrific military engagement as a massacre and express its regret for the actions of the American soldiers. Yet Congress has yet to strip the ill-begotten Medals of Honor bestowed upon twenty U.S. soldiers for carrying out this massacre.

It is shameful to honor soldiers for massacring defenseless men, women and children. Moreover, it disrespects the entire Native American community who send more men and women to serve in the military at higher rates than any other ethnic group. These twenty Medals of Honor must be rescinded.

We thank you for your leadership in taking steps to remove this reprehensible stain on our Country’s past. Let us know what we can do to help you make H.R. 3467 the law of the land this year.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Vig
Tribal Chairman

cc: Rep. Angie Craig