



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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USET SPF Resolution No. 2020 SPF:009

SUPPORT FOR THE REMOVE THE STAIN ACT

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of thirty (30) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 1890, the U.S. Army was ordered to arrest Tribal leaders of the Ghost Dance movement in South Dakota, fearing an "Indian uprising,"; and
- WHEREAS,** following the murder of Hunkpapa Lakota holy man, Sitting Bull, by U.S. police during an arrest attempt, a group of around 400 Lakota — mostly women and children — set out across 200 miles from the Cheyenne River Reservation to the Pine Ridge Reservation under Miniconjou Lakota Chief Spotted Elk (also known as Big Foot), who feared further violence; and
- WHEREAS,** soldiers of the U.S. 7th Cavalry intercepted the Lakota, ordering them to make camp at Wounded Knee Creek and demanding they give up their guns; and
- WHEREAS,** after a destructive search operation on December 29, 1890, as soldiers scoured the camp for weapons, the soldiers unleashed a torrent of firepower on the Lakota after a scuffle broke out following shots fired; and
- WHEREAS,** soldiers of the U.S. 7th Cavalry killed and wounded approximately 350-375 un-armed Lakota men, women, children, and elderly; and
- WHEREAS,** of those killed, 170 to 200 were women and children, almost all of whom were slaughtered by U.S. soldiers while fleeing or trying to hide, with those who made it past the firing lines murdered by U.S. soldiers who hunted them down; and
- WHEREAS,** the Medal of Honor is the highest military award in the U.S., given to "a person who, while a member of the (armed forces) distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity and 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 Congress, 1st Session, Senate Committee Print No. 2; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. awarded 20 Medals of Honor to the soldiers of the U.S. 7th Cavalry, following their participation in this atrocity, known as the Wounded Knee Massacre; and
- WHEREAS,** in October 1990, Congress passed a resolution during the 100-year anniversary of the Wounded Knee Massacre expressing its deep regret to the Lakota Sioux people, in particular, to the descendants of the victims and survivors; and

- WHEREAS,** the Remove the Stain Act would rightly rescind the 7th Calvary's unmerited 20 Medals of Honor awarded for horrific acts during the Wounded Knee Massacre; and
- WHEREAS,** the Remove the Stain Act states in its findings, "Allowing any Medal of Honor, the United States highest and most prestigious military decoration, to recognize a member of the Armed Forces for distinguished service for participating in the massacre of hundreds of unarmed Native Americans is a disservice to the integrity of the United States and its citizens, and impinges on the integrity of the award and those who have earned the Medal since;" and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors strongly supports the Remove the Stain Act and calls upon Congress to pass this legislation that would annul and void the twenty Congressional Medals of Honor given to members of the United States Seventh Calvary who committed incomprehensible atrocities upon un-armed Lakota men, women, children, and elderly at Wounded Knee; and be it further
- RESOLVED** this resolution shall be the policy of USET SPF until it is withdrawn or modified by a subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Annual Meeting held on the Sovereign Territory of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, at which a quorum was present, on November 7, 2019.



Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund