

Arapaho Legislator and Chief Patrick Spottedwolf calls on Susan Shown Harjo to advocate for the return of Fort Reno

Harjo received the Medal of Freedom from President Obama yesterday; Spottedwolf also questioned qualifications of Harjo's Tribal Membership

CLINTO, OKLAHOMA, USA, November 25, 2014 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Legislator and Arapaho Chief Patrick Spottedwolf calls on Susan Shown Harjo to advocate for returning Fort Reno to the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes ("Tribes"). Spottedwolf, a lifelong fighter for the Cheyenne and Arapaho people, repeated the call to return Fort Reno to the Tribes. President Clinton had promised three of the Tribes' leaders that he would return Fort Reno and the National Congress of American Indians ("NCAI") is on record requesting its return.

Harjo, who received the Medal of Freedom from President Obama yesterday, is an advocate for American Indian rights and President of the Morning Star Institute, a national Native American rights organization. She is a poet, writer, lecturer, curator, and policy advocate, who has helped Native peoples recover tribal lands. After co-producing the first Indian news show in the nation for WBAI radio while living in New York City, and producing other shows and theater, in 1974 she moved to Washington, DC, to work on national policy issues. She served as Congressional liaison for Indian affairs in the administration of President Jimmy Carter and later as Executive Director for the NCAI.

President Obama praised Harjo: "Because of Suzan, more young Native Americans are growing up with pride in their heritage, and with faith in their future. And she has taught all of us that Native values make America stronger." Yet the military aide presenting the medals at the ceremony referred to Harjo as "a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes". Spottedwolf released two letter (attached) questioning Harjo's qualifications as a member of the Tribes under its' Constitution, one to Harjo and the other to President Obama.

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