

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



John E. Echohawk

When I wrote in the Spring issue that "this year the challenges we face are substantial-

ly greater than those of the past," I was referring to Native American struggles, and I had no idea of the full meaning and impact these words would have. In light of the tragedy of September 11 and the subsequent actions of the United States, Great Britain, and countries around the world, it is impossible to conduct business as usual. But what keeps me forging ahead is I know that if some people are suffering from injustice, then everyone's freedom is at risk.

With NARF's assistance, the Klamath Tribes in southern Oregon are still fighting to protect their treaty and water rights. Even though these rights were reaffirmed by the courts in the 1970s and 80s, they are being trampled upon by politicians and enormously wealthy business interests. The battle must be won again in the state and federal courts, in the state legislature, and in Congress.

On a very positive note, Katie John has won her subsistence fishing rights case — which is a victory for Alaska

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KLAMATH TRIBES FIGHT TO RETAIN WATER RIGHTS AND RESTORE DECIMATED ECOSYSTEM

Each year, with the arrival of the first fish in March, the Klamath Tribes hold the Annual Return of /c'wam/ Ceremony to give thanks for the return of these fish that have been an integral part of the Tribes' cultural tradition and subsistence living for generations. This year, and for the past several years, the ceremony was reduced to a single fish.

The Klamath Tribes have lived in the Klamath Basin of Oregon for more than 14,000 years. For most of this time, the ecosystem was flourishing: fish and deer were plentiful, timber and plants were abundant, and water quality was good. The Tribes worked hard to maintain this harmony.

Today, the /c'wam/ (also known as the Lost River Sucker fish) and the coho salmon are on the endangered species list. Natural resources have been undermined and water quality and quantity have deteriorated. Because of this, for the first time in history, the Bureau of Reclamation significantly reduced its delivery of water for agriculture to some farmers in the Klamath Basin.

In case you are not familiar with the complex issues of this case, here is a brief overview. It is important to understand what has occurred in the past to focus on what is happening in the present.



Photo Credit: Klamath Tribe

The Background—Loss of Land, Tribal Termination, Damage to the Forests and Watershed

Although the loss of Klamath tribal lands dates back to 1864, the most recent chapter began in the early 1950s. Through the judicious use and management of natural resources, including timber, the Klamath Tribes were among the wealthiest tribes in the country. They paid for all their federal, state, and private services.

Then in 1954, in spite of opposition from tribal leaders, other tribes, and the Department of the Interior, the Klamath

Tribes were terminated from federal recognition by an act of Congress. Their land base of approximately 880,000 acres was taken by condemnation and turned into National Forest lands.

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KLAMATH TRIBES FIGHT TO RETAIN WATER RIGHTS AND RESTORE DECIMATED ECOSYSTEM

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Although “compensation” was made to the Tribes, it was only a fraction of what the land and its resources were worth.

Termination took the Tribes’ ancestral lands and the lands guaranteed to them by the Treaty of 1864. But it could not take away their tribal identity. The Tribes struggled for decades to preserve what was left to them in the aftermath of termination. In the 1970s, in cases brought by NARF, the federal court ruled that, despite termination, the Tribes retained their fishing, hunting, and gathering rights. And in the 1980s, they successfully defended their right to receive sufficient water to support these resources.

The U.S. Forest Services’ management of the forest as though it was a tree farm led to significant damage of both the forest and the watershed. Habitat and wildlife resources were decimated. The deer population, which the Tribes depend upon for food, had been 60 per square mile and was reduced to 4 per square mile. Degradation of the water quality and quantity led to the danger of the /c’wam/ and coho salmon becoming extinct and they were listed on the endangered species list.

In 1986, the Klamath people were successful in regaining restoration of federal recognition; however, they were given no land base for a tribal homeland or means to recover their economic self-sufficiency.

The Present — Things Heat Up . . . Figuratively and Literally

The Bureau of Reclamation operates a huge irrigation project in the Klamath Basin on lands ceded to the United States by the Tribes. The irrigation project competes for water with tribal fisheries. The Klamath Lake is where the endangered /c’wam/ spends most of its life. The Bureau is in charge of developing the annual water management plan for the Basin and has for years delivered water to the project in increasing quantities, despite the devastating effect on tribal fisheries.

This year, the combination of the driest year on record, the requirements of the Endangered Species Act, and the water rights of the Tribes brought to a head a century of unresolved water conflicts. In April, the Bureau, for the first time, acknowledged the need to protect tribal fisheries by significantly reducing the amount of water it delivered to the irrigation project.

Local farmers were outraged. They organized protests and condemned the Endangered Species Act and tribal fisheries. They recruited militia-based organizations from throughout the West and three times illegally forced open irrigation headgates in order to steal water.

As a result, the Tribes face battles on many fronts. They must defend their rights in the state and federal courts, in court-ordered mediation proceedings, before state and federal water management agencies, in the Oregon and California legislatures, and in Congress. In addition, they have been unfairly characterized as the villain in the media.

NARF is helping the Tribes on all these fronts. The fight is

arduous and costly, and faces opposition from enormously wealthy business interests and politicians who depend on these business interests.

Congress has appropriated \$20 million to give directly to agricultural interests in the Basin. Local governments have promised to provide thousands more to support litigation that will threaten tribal fisheries and water rights. California has provided millions to assist farmers but not a dime for Indian tribes.

Despite these attacks on their water rights, the Tribes are committed to seeking a peaceful resolution of Klamath Basin water issues. With NARF’s help and support, they are leaders in trying to bring together the various factions to settle this problem.

Part of what the Tribes are proposing is to restore the quality and quantity of the watershed. This would also have an extremely positive effect on animals, timber, and plant life in the region. Based on a proven track record of 14,000 years, the Tribes know how to manage and maintain these lands. They are hoping if everyone works toward this common goal, it can be achieved.

It is vital to restore these natural systems. It will help everyone — the local community will have an ongoing harvest of timber, the farmers will get more water for sustainable agriculture, and the Tribes will have access to renewed natural resources.

The Tribes will work to heal the community, but they will not cave in to demands that they surrender their treaty rights or way of life. ▲

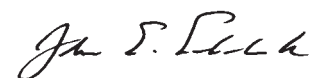
FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

(continued from page 1)

Natives. She has regained the right for Alaska Natives to fish in federally reserved waters as they have traditionally.

There is also progress being made in efforts to improve Native American education. In accordance with the 1998 Executive Order on American Indian and Alaska Native Education, nine Regional Partnership Forums were held, and nine schools have been selected as pilot sites for comprehensive technical assistance. They will hopefully serve as models for continued change.

In addition, Federal monies have been allocated to rebuild a few of the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ schools that have been neglected for decades. It is our fervent hope that children who will be starting school in the next few years, as well as those now in elementary and secondary schools, will be able to enjoy new opportunities for educational advancement and be able to take advantage of things most students take for granted — well-qualified teachers, conducive learning environments, and an adequate supply of books and supplies.

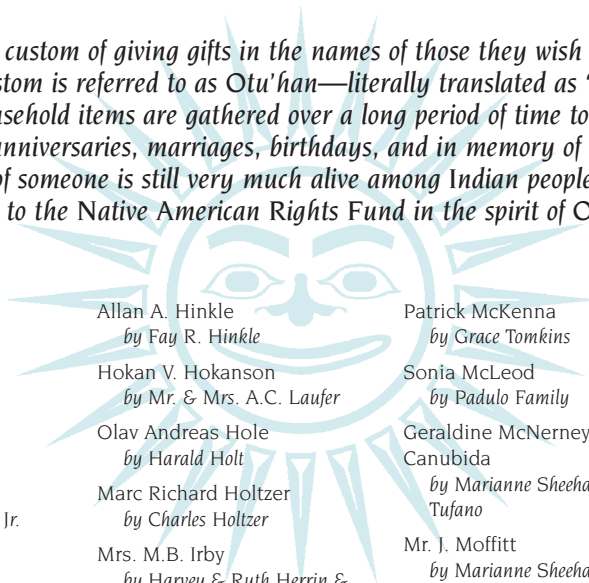


John E. Echohawk (Pawnee)
Executive Director



OTU'HAN

Native Americans have a custom of giving gifts in the names of those they wish to honor and remember. In the Lakota language, this custom is referred to as Otu'han—literally translated as “giveaway.” Items of value such as shawls, quilts, and household items are gathered over a long period of time to be given away during pow-wows or celebrations of births, anniversaries, marriages, birthdays, and in memory of the deceased. The custom of giving in honor or memory of someone is still very much alive among Indian people today. We are honored to list those donors making gifts to the Native American Rights Fund in the spirit of Otu'han from January 2001—June 2001.



In Honor or Memory of:

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Jerald Anderson <i>by Lois F. Anderson</i> | Louis De Felice <i>by Douglas Galbraith</i> | Allan A. Hinkle <i>by Fay R. Hinkle</i> | Patrick McKenna <i>by Grace Tomkins</i> | Dolores Roselli <i>by Virginia Kennedy</i> |
| Ruth Anderson <i>by The Rembaums</i> | Lincoln C. Dickey <i>by William Dickey</i> | Hokan V. Hokanson <i>by Mr. & Mrs. A.C. Laufer</i> | Sonia McLeod <i>by Padulo Family</i> | Mrs. Helen Ryan <i>by Lee F. Ryan</i> |
| Apache-Winnetou <i>by Brian F. Franzone</i> | John Echohawk <i>by Robert Bothwell</i> | Olav Andreas Hole <i>by Harald Holt</i> | Geraldine Mc Nerney Canubida <i>by Marianne Sheehan & Anna Tufano</i> | Ann Ryder <i>by Padulo Family</i> |
| Lillian Archambault <i>by Lucille Echohawk</i> | Mark Ellingwood <i>by Kendall Ellingwood, Jr.</i> | Marc Richard Holtzer <i>by Charles Holtzer</i> | Mr. J. Moffitt <i>by Marianne Sheehan & Anna Tufano</i> | Greg Sarris and The Coastal Miwok Tribe <i>by Dolan Eargle</i> |
| James Bennett <i>by Julie Tilton</i> | Frances Engdahl <i>by Mildred Hermanson</i> | Mrs. M.B. Irby <i>by Harvey & Ruth Herrin & Family</i> | Robert Montgomery, III <i>by Jerre Brimer</i> | James Scarlet <i>by Ruth A. Mains</i> |
| Walter Bosque <i>by Betty Diana Arce</i> | Angel Falcon <i>by Betty Diana Arce</i> | Peter H. M. Januzys <i>by Maria Januzys</i> | Charlotte Moyer <i>by Phyllis Rumsey & Damon & Karen Musselman & family</i> | Ruth Schwartz Berman <i>by Karen Petzing</i> |
| Kathleen Boyd <i>by Angela Martello</i> | Joe Flying By <i>by Virginia Gaines</i> | Mr. Chiang Kai-Shek <i>by Anthony V. Corrado</i> | Kasimiera G. Murphy <i>by Peter Murphy</i> | Seibert Scott <i>by Judy Glazier</i> |
| Dave Brown <i>by Gayle Cole</i> | Roy Fowler <i>by Sheila Fowler</i> | Richard M. Kieft <i>by Morella Johnson</i> | Pat Murphy <i>by Jerre Brimer</i> | Debbie Sekuler <i>by Jerre Brimer</i> |
| Jimmie Vi-Ni-Ta Autry Bubb <i>by Nanette Bohren</i> | T.J. Fraser <i>by Padulo Family</i> | Sarah King & Don Cushman <i>by Marion & Bob Patterson</i> | Preston O'Brian <i>by Aileen & Will Frazier</i> | Dr. Hilliard Shair <i>by Margaret E. Martin</i> |
| Richard Bubb <i>by Nanette Bohren</i> | Frieda Gartner <i>by Cindi Saunders</i> | Larry L. Kramer <i>by Julie Tilton</i> | Sylvia C. O'Connor <i>by Sara Lou O'Connor & Daniel Hegeman</i> | Mr. & Mrs. G.A. Shomaker <i>by Gordon Shomaker, Jr.</i> |
| May Bueno <i>by Jeff & Bert Bueno</i> | Angus Geiger <i>by S. Geiger</i> | Georgette Lang <i>by Padulo Family</i> | Our Ancestors <i>by Betty McCullen (Smiling Heart)</i> | Alfred C. Smith <i>by Helen M. Smith</i> |
| Camizba-Sacheducoti Tribe <i>by Marcelle Martin</i> | Coffee Geiger <i>by S. Geiger</i> | Lynn Langford Jorgensen <i>by Lois Bergquist</i> | Warren & Pauli Owens <i>by Marti Owens</i> | Steve & Linda Stevens <i>by Douglas Stevens</i> |
| James D. Carroll <i>by Virginia C. Wade</i> | Connie Giunta <i>by Mr. & Mrs. Fred Rockelein</i> | L. Michael Latter <i>by Morella Johnson</i> | Michael John Pavan <i>by Joe Padulo Family</i> | Fred, Dori, Jonathan & Danny Stripp <i>by Norval Bhendra</i> |
| Vincent Catches-the-Enemy <i>by Marotta Family</i> | Paula & Max Glaesel <i>by Walter Erhard</i> | David Lawson <i>by Mrs. David Lawson</i> | James Pettersen <i>by Anna Tufano & Marianne Sheehan</i> | Leroy Hampton Taylor Sr. <i>by W. Ron Allen</i> |
| Albert Cherino <i>by Cheryl Z. Holcomb</i> | Elisabeth Grund <i>by Marianne G. Freidberg</i> | Robert Leland <i>by Joy H. Leland</i> | Mike & Maria Pina <i>by Paul H. Pina</i> | Mike Truken <i>by Ray Rioux, Jr.</i> |
| China <i>by Nina Howes</i> | Hans-Christian Grund <i>by Marianne G. Freidberg</i> | Hubert H. Lenker <i>by Ralph & Donna Brauer</i> | Patricia Pokejoy Gill <i>by Ken Barkhurst</i> | Richard Ullman <i>by Local 3950 PE, CFI Pharmacy</i> |
| Paul Cloud <i>by Bob Fall</i> | Peter-Sylvester Grund <i>by Marianne G. Freidberg</i> | Louis Liss <i>by Florence & Alfred Egendorf</i> | David Pollard <i>by Sara Small</i> | Alex H. Warner <i>by Mrs. Alex H. Warner</i> |
| Bill Corder <i>by Tempie & Joe Bowers</i> | Helen Haemisegger <i>by Virginia M. Heines</i> | Michelle Littrell <i>by Anna Tufano & Marianne Sheehan</i> | Carrie Porter <i>by Mr. & Mrs. McGuffin</i> | Butch Wright <i>by Charles Lohah</i> |
| Crazy Horse <i>by Dennis Thomas</i> | Tim Haggerty <i>by Marianne Sheehan & Anna Tufano</i> | Tamara Llosa-Sander <i>by Barbara & Richard Stabler-Sholk</i> | Matt Porter <i>by Mr. & Mrs. McGuffin</i> | Howie Young <i>by Larry A. Ginsberg</i> |
| Helen June Croce <i>by Mary C. Griffin</i> | Rick & Linda Hamlin <i>by Janice C. Johnston</i> | Jim Mains <i>by Ruth A. Mains</i> | Jay D. “Chip” Red Owl <i>by Bruce Olsen</i> | |
| Mr. & Mrs. Henry Cuffey <i>by Cheryl Carrion</i> | Fred Harrison <i>by Gayle Cole</i> | Harold A. Mathews <i>by Sally Gallo</i> | Anna Rose <i>by Padulo Family</i> | |
| Maria S. Davis <i>by William Davis</i> | Darlene Mae Hawkins <i>by Wayne Hawkins</i> | Ruth P. Matthews <i>by Paul H. Pina</i> | | |
| Rev. William O. Davis, Jr. <i>by William Davis</i> | Gladys Hayes <i>by Karen Ambrogi</i> | Russell McCoy <i>by Hap Heilman</i> | | |
| Sam H. Day, Jr. <i>Anonymous</i> | Jeanne E. Herman <i>by Ralph & Donna Brauer</i> | | | |



WHAT'S HAPPENING?



Katie John

KATIE JOHN WINS SUBSISTENCE RIGHTS CASE FOR NATIVE ALASKANS

Alaska Governor Tony Knowles effectively ended the Katie John case when he said on August 25, 2001, that the state will not appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

This is a decided victory

for Alaska Natives throughout the state. NARF staff attorney Heather Kendall-Miller and co-counsel William E. Caldwell of Alaska Legal Services have been assisting Katie John throughout the lawsuit.

Katie John, an 83-year-old Ahtna elder, was only 46 in 1964 when wardens from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game confronted her at the family's ancestral fish camp Batzulnetas ("roasted fish place") and closed it down to protect spawning salmon. This action deprived Katie John of her subsistence rights to feed her family, while commercial fishermen made millions of dollars catching Copper River sockeye.

The camp lay dormant for 20 years, but in 1984 Katie John and fellow villagers decided it was time to resume fishing and petitioned Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve officials to reclaim their fishing rights. Officials refused, and Katie John sued claiming that the federal government was failing to protect her subsistence fishing rights guaranteed under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

Katie John was only 46 when the wardens closed her ancestral fish camp.

Enacted in 1980, Title VIII of ANILCA requires that subsistence uses by rural residents be given priority over all other (sport and commercial) uses of fish and game on federal public lands in Alaska. Congress allowed the state to continue to manage fish and game uses on the condition that Title VIII's rural subsistence priority be applicable on state lands as well.

In 1989, The Alaska Supreme Court ruled that the state's rural priority for subsistence violated the Alaska constitution. Because the state was then no longer in compliance with ANILCA, the federal government took over subsistence management of game and plants on federal land. Fisheries management remained with the state due to Katie John's pending lawsuit.

She won — not once but twice. In 1994, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that ANILCA's priority for subsistence extends to fisheries in federally reserved waters. The

U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the case and it went back to the Alaska federal district court for final proceedings.

In May 2001, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued an opinion in favor of protecting Alaska Native subsistence rights and held that the previous judgment should not be altered.

Governor Knowles said in an article in the Anchorage Daily News that his decision not to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court came after he visited Katie John at the fish camp. Katie John was pleased with the governor's decision. Her granddaughter Kathryn Martin said in the same article, "When we took him to the fish camp and grandma talked to him about how she was fighting for her family, I think it made him realize it was more than a legal battle."

Subsistence living is an economic necessity and a spiritual and cultural practice that has sustained Native people for thousands of years. It is an integral part of personal self-esteem and strong family and community relationships.

PROGRESS CONTINUES IN INDIAN EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT

More than 600,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives are enrolled in education programs in the United States. Many of these schools have high teacher turnover and higher-than-national-average dropout rates.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) 185 schools have suffered for decades from neglect and disrepair. For example, the Ojibwa Indian School in Belcourt, North Dakota, is comprised of 10 portable and four temporary buildings, some of which were built in the 1930s. Serving 351 students in K-8, the buildings pose a serious safety and health threat to students and teachers.

Progress is being made, however, due to multi-year collaborations, research, new laws, and increased budgets.

After more than four years of intensive education and communications by the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the National Indian Education Association (NIEA), and the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE), President Clinton signed the landmark Executive Order on American Indian and Alaska Native Education on August 6, 1998.

The goals of the Order are: (1) improving reading and math; (2) increasing high school completion and postsecondary attendance rates; (3) reducing the influence of factors that impede educational performance such as poverty and substance abuse; (4) creating safe, drug-free school environments; (5) improving science education; and (6) expanding the use of educational technology.

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THE EAGLE FEATHER



Dave Archambault

The Board and staff of the Native American Rights Fund warmly thank Dave Archambault for six terrific years of service as a NARF board member. In an interview on April 27, 2001, in Boulder, Colorado, Dave shared some personal reflections and thoughts about NARF.

Dave said he has a great respect for the organization and the Board members with whom he served. Everyone has a role to play and there is great stewardship of the organization. Dave applauded the staff for its ability to iron out difficulties with little Board involvement, adding that there is a very healthy relationship between the Board and the organization.

Dave's most favorite Board experience was visiting the state of

Hawaii not as a tourist, but as an indigenous brother. He learned a great deal about the plight of the Hawaiian people who have never obtained Federal recognition status from the U.S. Government. They lost their land. Everything they valued was taken away. The plight of the Hawaiian people crystallizes the importance of the rights of all human beings. Although the situation may seem grim for American Indians living on the mainland, American Indians should be thankful for their Federal trust status because there are other indigenous people (like the Hawaiians) who have little recourse or established treaty rights. Today, the Hawaiian people are uniting to correct the injustices against them, but they are battling corporate America and a value system that is much different from their own.

Dave sees great promise in the Native American Rights Fund. He

would like to see NARF play a greater role in tribal education, suggesting NARF seek funding for the introduction of jurisprudence curriculum for schools. Dave envisions an informed nation of Indian children who have a good perspective about themselves and their world. Dave said "knowledge is power." He would like to see Indian law and economic principles presented to children at a young age to educate our future Tribal leaders.

Finally, Dave said American Indian people must build their own businesses, engage in commerce, and learn to take care of themselves. There needs to be a greater awareness by all American Indians of the predicaments we find ourselves in, and we must learn to deal effectively and intelligently with them. It is key to our survival. ▲



NARF MISSION STATEMENT

The Native American Rights Fund (NARF) is a non profit organization that provides legal and technical services to tribes, organizations, and individuals on major issues facing Native people and their communities. Founded in 1970, NARF has become one of the largest Native non profit charities in the United States.

NARF's mission statement encompasses five priority areas:

Preservation of tribal existence

The future existence of the Indian tribes in this country depends ultimately upon preserving their status as sovereign governments, and the right of self-determination to preserve traditional customs and ways of life.

Protection of natural resources

The natural resources found on Indian lands vary greatly. NARF concentrates its efforts in asserting tribal resource rights and protecting them from loss and exploitation. Major resource protection includes land rights; water rights; hunting, fishing and gathering rights; environmental protection; timber rights; and the prudent development of mineral resources.

Promotion of human rights

The Native American Rights Fund is concerned with securing basic human rights for Native Americans in such areas as education, religious freedom, and Indian child welfare.

Accountability of governments to Native Americans

NARF focuses much of its efforts on guaranteeing that all governments are accountable for the proper recognition and enforcement of the many laws and regulations which govern the lives of Indian people.

Development of Indian law and educating the public about Indian rights, laws, and issues

This involves not only the establishment of favorable court precedents in major areas of Indian law, but also the compilation and distribution of Indian law resources to individuals and groups. We seek to educate the public as to the importance of Native American rights.

A staff of 14 attorneys handles approximately 50 cases at any given time. NARF is headquartered in Boulder, Colorado, with branch offices in Washington, DC, and Anchorage, AK. ▲

WHAT'S HAPPENING

(continued from page 4)

Accomplishments to date

August 1999 – May 2000

Nine Regional Partnership Forums were held in cities across the country among federal, tribal, and state officials and educators.

November 1999 – First Quarter 2000

Through self-nomination and committee review, nine schools were selected as pilot schools. They were chosen because of their diversity of school characteristics and geographic distribution and include BIA and public schools. They are receiving comprehensive technical assistance in support of the goals of the Executive Order. After initial work is done, the team will disseminate reports on effective and promising practices, accomplishments, and recommendations.

January 2000

Congress approved the President's request for \$10 million in new federal dollars to train 1,000 new Indian teachers. Twenty-eight grants under the new Indian teacher-training program have been awarded.

January 2001

A Comprehensive Federal Indian Education Policy was approved by the Clinton White House. It is based in large measure on recommendations of the Comprehensive Federal Indian Education Policy Statement issued in 1996 and endorsed by Indian tribes and Native organizations throughout the country.

All of these activities have occurred in consultation with tribal leaders and Indian educators.

REPATRIATION—THE KENNEWICK MAN (“ANCIENT ONE”) CASE RAISES ISSUES OVER NATIVE AMERICAN REBURIAL RIGHTS

The Kennewick case started with the discovery of 9,000-year-old human remains along an Oregon riverbank. Several northwest Tribes collectively filed a claim for possession of the remains with the Department of Interior (DOI) under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

The Tribes wish to rebury the remains in accordance with tribal religious traditions. Several scientists petitioned the Department of Interior for permission to conduct extensive studies of the remains before reburial. NARF is representing the National Congress of American Indians as an amicus (friend, advisor) in this case.

Signed into law in 1990, NAGPRA defines Native American rights concerning ancestral remains, burial sites, funerary objects, and sacred objects. The law is trying to right the monumental injustices done to Native Americans

in the name of greed, scientific study, and preserving a “dying breed.”

Radiocarbon dating from independent laboratories indicates that Kennewick Man lived his life and died in the Pacific Northwest more than 9,000 years ago before the arrival of European exploration. Remains were determined to be Native American.

DOI denied the scientists' petition and granted the Tribes' petition. The scientists sought review and reversal of the decision in federal district court of Oregon. The court heard arguments and issued an opinion requiring DOI to reconsider its decision. DOI reconsidered and adhered to its original decision. The scientists filed suit in Oregon again in June 2001.

This case raises important issues requiring interpretation of NAGPRA. They include whether scientists have free speech rights to study the remains; whether oral religious traditions used by the DOI as a basis for finding “cultural affiliation” between the remains and the current day tribes violates the anti-establishment of a religion clause of the Constitution, whether DOI's decision was arbitrary, and whether the remains are Native American as defined in NAGPRA. ▲

Join Us—You Are Helping to Make a Difference Together We Are Improving the Lives of Native Americans FOREVER!

Your generosity has helped us enormously in the past—but there is still much to fight for.

- ▶ NARF is still battling to correct years of federal government mismanagement of billions of dollars belonging to more than 500,000 individual Native Americans.
- ▶ NARF is representing seven tribes seeking federal recognition of their tribal status.
- ▶ Indians are still struggling to restore their cultural heritage, rebury their ancestors, and revive traditional practices that have preserved our lands, forests, and waterways for thousands of years.
- ▶ Every dollar you give is important! Join a select group of friends standing shoulder to shoulder in our Donors' Circle.

Please use the enclosed coupon to send in your donation, or if the coupon is no longer with this newsletter, please donate online www.narf.org or mail your donation to Native American Rights Fund, 1506 Broadway, Boulder, Colorado 80302.

EVENTS

NARF WEBSITE WINS EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Native American Rights Fund website www.narf.org was honored with the "Peoples' Choice" Website Award presented by the Boulder Community Network in a formal ceremony in Boulder, Colorado, on September 29.

NARF's website was chosen from a field of 36 entries by voters who cast their ballot electronically. Judging criteria included ease of navigation, quality and readability of educational material, lively graphics, and overall visitor satisfaction.

This is the second website award presented to NARF. In 2000, NARF's website was awarded the Standard of Excellence by the Web Marketing Association, an independent organization whose exclusive purpose is to evaluate and recognize excellence standards of the World Wide Web.

"We are delighted to have received these awards," said Montoya Whiteman, Development and Public Relations Administrator. "We work very hard to make our website a place where both Native and non-Native people can come to learn about Native American rights and the progress that is being made on a wide range of issues."

OTHER EVENTS

NARF staff members recently participated in the following conferences focusing on Native American issues.

November 4-6, 2001

John E. Echohawk, Executive Director, and Montoya Whiteman, Development and Public Relations Administrator, participated in the Independent Sector meeting in Atlanta, GA. John was part of the panel for the



session titled, "Vision for the Future: Native Leadership in the 21st Century."

October 9-10, 2001

Steve Moore, Staff Attorney, represented NARF at the Sacred Lands Symposium in Boulder, CO.

September 10-14, 2001

John Echohawk attended the National Congress of American Indians' Tribal Leaders Policy Forum in Washington, DC. Co-sponsored by NARF, the Forum was attended by more than 200 American Indian tribal leaders and focused on recent United States Supreme Court cases that have adversely affected tribes' rights.

August 26 - September 1, 2001

Keith Harper, Staff Attorney, Washington, D.C., office, and K. Jerome Gottschalk, Staff Attorney, Boulder, CO office, attended the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa. ▲

ON THE CASE FROM NARF'S ALASKA OFFICE



Lawrence A. Aschenbrenner

Lawrence A. Aschenbrenner

Larry has been on the NARF staff for 16 years and has served as the Directing Attorney of the Alaska office for the past ten years. Larry has over 36 years of litigation experience and previously served as the Directing Attorney for NARF's Washington, D.C., office.

Prior to joining NARF's staff, Larry served in a number of legal capacities including Acting Associate Solicitor for Indian Affairs and Assistant Solicitor for Indian Affairs in the Department of the Interior (from 1974-February 1977). He also served as the



Heather Kendall-Miller

Heather Kendall-Miller (Athabascan)

Heather was a Research Attorney as a Skadden Fellow in the NARF Alaska office from 1992 until 1994 when she was hired as a staff attorney. Before coming to NARF, Heather worked with the law firm of Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse and Miller in Anchorage, Alaska, and Washington, DC, doing extensive legislative research

and writing memoranda. She attended Harvard Law School and received her B.A. from the University of Alaska. ▲



Lakota word meaning "camp crier"

DON RAGONA, DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIFTS

The Native American Rights Fund has joined forces with one of the largest producers of Native American music and is currently working on the production of a compilation recording of new music by some of Native America's best known artists. A portion of the proceeds from sales of the recording will benefit NARF and the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. Artists such as Joanne Shenandoah, Rita Coolidge and Walela will be featured.

In light of the cowardly attacks of September 11 that resulted in the tragic loss of lives and property, NARF has requested that the Red Cross share in a portion of the proceeds. In deciding to allow the Red Cross to share in these proceeds, John Echohawk said "Native peoples are compassionate by nature. It is time to put our differences aside as we extend our prayers, love and deepest sympathy to the families and friends who were touched by these

grievous events."

This recording will be the second produced for the benefit of NARF by Red Feather Music. The first Emerging Power CD was released last year. Emerging Power was a New Age Music Award finalist for Best Compilation Album of 2000 and has been nominated this year for Best Compilation recording by the Native American Music Awards. ▲

A Message from the Native American Rights Fund

The Board, staff and members of the Native American Rights Fund extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the victims of the World Trade Towers, Pentagon and the commercial airline disasters. The manner in which these bright, successful, and much loved individuals perished was shocking, senseless and horrific to observe.

At NARF, we found ourselves distressed about the safety of our colleagues in the Washington, D.C., office and those working in the field, including our Executive Director who was attending a meeting in Washington, D.C. We were thankful and relieved to learn that they were out of danger.

Crowfoot, a Blackfoot warrior and orator, said,

"What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset."

On September 11, 2001, our brave-hearted brothers and sisters walked into the sunset to meet their relatives in the Spirit World. We hope the families and friends impacted by these sad events find comfort in the memories of their loved ones and the honor they left with the American people.

A speaker at the National Congress of American Indians once said, "Today, we are evaluating the changing winds. May we be strong in spirit and equal to our Fathers of another day in reading the signs accurately and interpreting them wisely. May the Creator look down upon us, guide us, inspire us, and give us courage and wisdom."

We wish President Bush and our national leaders the experience, knowledge and wisdom to act in accordance with the law to carry the American people through this difficult time.

Ha-ho (Thank you). ▲



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Member of America's Charities & Community Shares of Colorado

The Native American Rights Fund's policies, practices and operations meet the Standards in Philanthropy of the National Charities Information Bureau (NCIB).

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