



**NATIONAL
INDIAN
GAMING
ASSOCIATION**



INDIAN GAMING UPDATE

National Indian Gaming Association - On Behalf of Ernie Stevens, Jr. Chairman January 2009

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**NATIONAL
INDIAN
GAMING
ASSOCIATION**

224 Second Street SE.
Washington, D.C. 20003
(202) 546-7711
(202) 546-1755 fax

www.indiangaming.org

email:
pr@indiangaming.org

Dear Friends,

Sagoli Swakweku – Greetings from Washington, D.C.!

It is hard to believe that we are drawing closer to April and the 2009 Indian Gaming Trade show and Convention to be held April 13 – 16, in the Phoenix, Arizona. This annual event celebrates Indian gaming and highlights the business and industry leaders who have contributed to building one of the most successful economic enterprises in America. This year we are excited to be presenting Indian Gaming 2009 with a full-scaled agenda to include our tribal leadership meetings, the dynamic trade show, our ever-popular golf tournaments, outstanding entertainment and an extensive workshop track that includes new training and certification sessions critical to the gaming industry.

I take this opportunity to invite all of you to be part of what promises to be another great Convention! Our return to the “Valley of the Sun” is already being met with great anticipation, excitement and outstanding support by the Arizona tribes and all of the sponsors of this event. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

I hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Indian Gaming Update!

Ernest L. Stevens, Jr.



PRESIDENT CLINTON PATTEA TO RECEIVE WENDELL CHINO AWARD

The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) has announced that Clinton Pattea, President of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, will be presented with the Wendell Chino Humanitarian Award at the 2009 Indian Gaming Expo & Trade Show to be held in Phoenix, Arizona from April 13 through April 16.

NIGA Chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr., announced the special honor at this year's 2009 Arizona Desert Classic Gaming Conference held this week at the Radisson Fort McDowell Resort in Fort McDowell, Arizona.

NIGA bestows the award annually in honor of the late Wendell Chino, who served as Chairman of the Mescalero Apache Nation in New Mexico for 43 years and is regarded by many throughout Indian Country as a legendary tribal warrior and leader.

Chairman Stevens made the announcement during his opening remarks to the Arizona tribal leadership and conference attendees, “It couldn’t have happened for a better person.” Addressing Pattea, Stevens said, “Your years of service to Indian Country are well-documented. The Wendell Chino Award is one of the highest-ranking awards in Indian Country and we are very excited to honor you.”

President Pattea said, “I considered Wendell Chino as a mentor and I am honored to be selected by the tribal leadership and the NIGA board.”



Chairman Stevens joins Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation President Clinton Pattea and Tohono O’odham Chairman Ned Norris at the Desert Classic Gaming Convention in Fort McDowell Arizona

Pattea has served on the Fort McDowell Yavapai tribal council for over 4 decades and is considered a driving force behind his nation’s success in Indian gaming. Pattea’s steadfast leadership initiated a compact with the state of Arizona to allow lawful gaming for Fort McDowell and other Arizona tribes despite the resistance of then-Governor Fife Symington and other state politicians.

Ned Norris, Chairman of the Tohono O’odham Tribe and the Arizona Indian Gaming Association said, “What a great way to acknowledge President Pattea

for his many years of service to his Fort McDowell Nation. He is a man of sound judgment, experience, and is someone that we look up to and reverend as a true leader to his people,” said Norris. “I thank you for everything that you have contributed to all of us in the area of gaming and tribal leadership.” Norris said to Pattea.

Pattea was nominated for the award by Bernadine Burnette, Vice President of the Fort McDowell Nation and was selected by the NIGA Executive Board in a final vote conferring the award to Pattea.

Pattea joins other legendary tribal leaders such as Robert Salgado, Chairman of the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, and Ivan Makil, former President of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, as recipients of the prestigious award.

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE LEGISLATURE RECOGNIZES NIGA AND THE SPIRIT OF SOVEREIGNTY XMAS DRIVE

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota State Legislature recognized National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) Chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr. for his work on behalf the Spirit of Sovereignty Christmas Drive in South Dakota during the 9th Annual Native American Recognition Day at the Capitol rotunda on January 28, 2009.

For the last two years, the NIGA Spirit of Sovereignty Christmas drive has been held in conjunction with the Lakota Nations Invitational (LNI), a major celebration of Lakota culture, education, arts and athletics held in Rapid City, South Dakota. Once again, the Christmas drive garnered the participation of wrestling mega-star Hulk Hogan, who along with Stevens founded the Dreamseekers Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing assistance to Native American youth and their families throughout Indian Country.

Stevens and Hogan expanded their efforts by not only participating in the LNI events to promote the Christmas drive, but at the invitation of South Dakota State Representative Kevin Killer, D-Pine Ridge, the Dreamseekers co-founders visited communities of the Oglala Lakota nation.

Rep. Killer and Rep. Ed Iron Cloud III, D-Porcupine invited Stevens to the recognition day ceremonies prior to the opening session of the legislature, where he was officially honored. Rep. Killer said, "Our reservations are some of the fastest-growing populations in South Dakota and they're also some of the youngest. With the unemployment rate so high on the reservation, many families find themselves unable to provide beyond the very basics needs. It is refreshing to know that through these efforts by Chairman Stevens and Hulk Hogan, many of our needy families were given the opportunity to provide a Christmas for their children."

Rep. Killer continued, "I had the honor of taking part in the Christmas drive



Pictured (L-R) are South Dakota Rep. Kevin Killer, Traditional Advocate Moses Brings Plenty, Sicangu Lakota Medicine Man Leonard Crow Dog and NIGA Chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr.

and I witnessed first-hand the excitement and enthusiasm of the Oglala Lakota people. Both Chairman Stevens and Hulk Hogan displayed such passion for them."

Chairman Stevens said, "This is truly a great honor. The Spirit of Sovereignty Christmas drive is an awe-inspiring opportunity to provide to the Oglala Lakota

youth in South Dakota. I am very grateful for the continued support we get from the contributors all throughout Indian country and the gaming industry. It is because of their generosity that are able to give gifts to many who normally would go without on Christmas day."

Stevens added, "Several years ago, my young friend, Kevin Killer came to me and asked if NIGA could help the less fortunate children in Pine Ridge by providing Christmas presents. We were able to provide Christmas presents and clothes that first year and from that came the Christmas drive, as we know it today. Kevin is to be commended for his ambition to reach out on behalf of the Oglala people."

After the recognition day ceremony, Stevens joined the visiting audience in the Gallery of the legislative session. Rep. Killer formally introduced him to the legislature, where his introduction was met with applause by the full legislative body.



Chairman Stevens greets South Dakota tribal elders who joined in the recognition ceremony at the SD State Legislative Rotunda

The NIGA Spirit of Sovereignty Christmas Drive was supported contributions from the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, the Sycuan Band of Kummeyaay Indians, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, the Tule River Indian Tribe, the Barona Band of Mission Indians, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Video Gaming Technologies, Inc., International Gaming Technology, the Bicycle Club, ID Interactive, LLC, the Bobby Barrett Foundation and the California Nations Indian Gaming Association.



Hulk Hogan signs autographs at the Sharps Corner convenience store during his visit to the Oglala Nation as part of the Spirit of Sovereignty Christmas Drive.

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NIGA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p>NAI</p> <p>Executive Council Winter Session</p> <p>WASHINGTON, D.C.</p> <p>MARCH 2-4, 2009</p>	<p>NIGA</p> <p>Winter Legislative Summit</p> <p>WASHINGTON, D.C.</p> <p>MARCH 4-5, 2009</p>	<p>NAICD RES2009</p> <p>Las Vegas, NV.</p> <p>MARCH 9-12, 2009</p>
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NCAI STATE OF INDIAN NATIONS ADDRESS



Joe Garcia, President
National Congress of
American Indians

In his final State of Indian Nations address as National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President, Joe A. Garcia, reached out to President Barack Obama's administration and federal agencies in hopes for a more improved nation-to-nation relationship.

President Garcia praised President Obama's knowledge of treaty obligations to Indian nations and his vision for government parity in his new Administration.

"We embrace the promised White House summit between tribal leaders and the Obama Administration," President Garcia told the some 200 audience members in the National Museum of the American Indian's Rasmuson Theater. "The President has given us good reason to believe he will include Indian Nations as he talks about a new spirit of hope and change."

President Garcia pointed out Indian Country's successes of 2008: NCAI helped lead the White House to a stronger anti-meth campaign; helped gain the President's signature on legislation honoring Native Code Talkers from World Wars I and II; made improvements in our tribal courts; advanced our agenda for children; found ways to use environmental initiatives to help tribes boost their economies while preserving mother earth; and Native Americans made history on Election Day by participating in the democratic process in record numbers.

Excerpts from the Address:

Our Hope for the New Administration

"When the President says that Indian Nations are a priority for his new Administration, I take him at his word. I look forward to new respect for tribal sovereignty, and a new focus on the importance of nation-to-nation relationships.

I look forward to Indian Country's greater inclusion and greater respect in this new vision for America and there is still much work to be done. So today I present our agenda in four areas:

- We seek a place at the table for Indian Nations in the economic recovery of this great nation;
- We seek transformational improvements to health care;
- We call for a fundamental, federal commitment to public safety; and

- We seek a new federal priority for the education of the children of Indian Nations."

Economic Recovery

"The first priority of our agenda is ensuring that the Indian Nations are included in the economic recovery.

The economic downturn is having a dramatic effect on the ability of tribal governments, like other governments, to administer basic functions. We call upon Congress and the new Administration to fully support Indian Nations in the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Plan for investment in tribal government infrastructure."

"Congress is set to pass this week the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Plan, a bill that would include funds for tribes to build roads, schools, health care facilities and other infrastructure needs vital to life in Indian Country.

We ask only for what we have been promised in treaty and in law: support for the basic services that other Americans expect on a daily basis: education, and health care, and keeping our streets and homes safe."

Health Care

"One of the oldest treaties between the federal government and Indian Nations makes provision for providing health care. When the federal government fails to do their part, Native people have nowhere else to turn.

Ten years ago, Congress allowed the authorization for the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to expire.

For ten years, the federal government has failed not only to do the right thing, they have failed to uphold their obligation. The result is that Native people are suffering.

Reauthorization of this law would address the most basic elements of health care: doctors and nurses, mental health professionals, addiction counselors, and the medical equipment, facilities, even buildings required to provide even the most fundamental services.

It is heartbreaking to imagine that our leaders in Washington do not care, so I must believe that they do not know."

Public Safety

"There is no simple reason for crime, just as there is no simple solution. But there are things that can be done to make daily life safer for Native people, to get crime rates under control, and there are things we can do to help keep young people from falling into criminal activity in the first place.

Public safety is the top budget priority for Indian Country and congressional appropriations should reflect that as well. We simply need more resources for officers and equipment.

Today we have released the Indian Country FY 2010 budget request which includes specific recommendations for public safety as well as the entire federal budget.

But there is something else Washington can do: Congress should take a hard look at the complicated and sometimes conflicting jurisdictional issues that make it difficult not only to prosecute crime but also to prevent it.

We are committed to working closely with the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to find and implement fundamental changes to make this happen, and I call for the Administration's commitment to that action."

Education

"Finally, I want to talk about education. I urge the new Administration to make it a priority to support greater academic success and educational growth for the children of the Indian Nations.

Native students are in crisis. American Indian and Alaska Native children continue to fall behind their peers. According to the recent National Indian Education Study, American Indian and Alaska Native students scored significantly lower than their peers in reading and math in both fourth and eighth grades.

Since 2005, Native students have been the only students to show no significant progress in either subject.

Ninety percent of Indian children are enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools, but ten percent attend schools in their tribal communities.

These schools are supported solely by federal funds through the Bureau of Indian Education and have been overlooked and neglected for decades, most severely so in recent years.

And now our Native youth face some of the highest high school dropout rates in the country.

An investment in better schools will have a ripple effect on well-being and economic strength throughout Indian communities."

The address will also be available for online viewing for 30 days at our website, www.ncai.org.

MINNESOTA TRIBAL LEADER PASSES ON

Gilbert Caribou

Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe Tribal Councilman
1943-2009



National Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr., was saddened to learn about the recent passing of Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe tribal leader Gilbert Caribou who died on January 28th at the age of 65.

“Gilbert was a leader who was well-respected at all levels. His strength was in his community. His dedication to the culture and language of the Ojibwe people will never be forgotten.” Stevens said.

“When Indian country loses a champion of a man like Gilbert, we hope and we pray that our young have heard his voice and are prepared to carry his torch, continuing his legacy for generations to come.” Stevens concluded.

On January 31st, Community and family gathered for a traditional Ojibwe memorial service to pay respect for a man who was a role model for many at the Grand Portage Community Center, Grand Portage, Minn.

Caribou was born March 30, 1943 to Walter and Alma (Redsky) Caribou in LaLa Croix, Ontario.

He moved to Crane Lake, Minnesota where he grew up and graduated from Orr High School. He joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in Orleans, France until his honorable discharge. He then returned and lived in Grand Portage until his untimely death.

Throughout his life he worked as a iron worker, in the education field, and also was a counselor.

Gilbert will always be remembered for his fluency with the Ojibwe language. He was brought up in traditional ways by his parents and did not learn English until he was six-years-old.

After attending the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis from 1974-78, majoring in Business Administration with a minor in American Indian Studies, he shared his love of his native language as an educator. He administered a Bilingual - Bicultural project that is still used successfully today at the Nett Lake school district 20 years later.

Gilbert served the Grand Portage community for almost 16 years as secretary-treasurer of the Grand Portage Tribal Council, extending his leadership to many local, regional, and national committees.

He was a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee and was chair of the Minnesota

Chippewa Tribal Education and Human Services Subcommittee and traveled to Washington D.C. many times during his tenure on the Tribal Council to lobby for the advancement of Indian education, human services, and tribal sovereignty.

In 2008, Gilbert was awarded the Tribal Officer of the Year award by the Minnesota Indian Education Association.

He directed the Grand Portage Rendezvous Days Celebration and served on many state and national boards and committees for many years.

Gilbert enjoyed playing Keno, softball, partridge hunting, watching all sports and nickels.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Violet Caribou and brother, Alvin Caribou.

Gilbert is survived by his common-law wife and soulmate of 28 years, Cecelia Vondall; daughter, “Mouse”; step-daughters, Melissa, Cheri, Lydia and Dama; step-sons, Henry and Clayton Villeburn; grandchildren, Conrad, Steven, Donovan, Aurora, Anthony, Ethan, John, Lohnen, Zane, Shylan, Beriah, Aniah, Desi, Skylar, and Caira; brothers, Walter (Doris) Caribou Jr., Billy Blackwell and sister, Judith (Roger) Hervig and numerous nieces and nephews.

