

tive American Outreach for the Presidential Inaugural Committee for President Clinton's second inauguration and deputy director of Native American Outreach at the Democratic Nat'l Committee. She also worked with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, including serving as a law clerk in the Division of Law and Justice.

Teehee says that her professional experiences both in Congress and with the Cherokee Nation have prepared her to work well in a collaborative environment, to coordinate closely with key stakeholders, to resolve difficult issues and look toward consensus, and to work across partisan divides to achieve real progress on Native American issues.

"All of these skills are being put to good use as we move forward to build stronger tribal communities," Teehee says.

Info: To learn more, please visit the website at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/dpc/>

2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom Given to Indian Historian, War Hero

Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow, (Crow) received America's highest civilian honor from President Obama on Aug. 12 -- the Medal of Freedom. The honor is given to individuals for contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors. Medicine Crow, a Native American historian and war hero, was among 16 recipients of the 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom.

At 96-years old Medicine Crow is the last living Plains Indian war chief and authored numerous books on Native American history and culture. He still actively lectures at universities and institutions like the United Nations.

Medicine Crow was the first member of his tribe to attend college, receiving his master's degree in anthropology in 1939. He is the last person alive to have received direct oral testimony from a participant in the Battle of the Little Bighorn, his own grandfather, who was a scout for General George Armstrong Custer. Prior to completing his PhD, Medicine Crow left to serve in World War II and completed the four battlefield deeds that made him the last Crow war chief.

In addition to the Medal of Freedom, Medicine Crow has also received the Bronze Star by the U.S. Army and the government of France made him a knight of the French Legion of Honor. He has been nominated for a Congressional Medal of Honor as well.

Medicine Crow is very humble and deserving of the recognition, Chris Kortlander tells *NAR*. Kortlander is director of the Custer Battlefield Museum in Montana and was instrumental in the nomination of Medicine Crow.

Much of Medicine Crow's success is due to the fact that he was educated early and knew how to succeed beyond the reservation, Kortlander said. Medicine Crow knew that he must have knowledge of the non-Indian world, while at the same time "not lose his heritage or roots," Kortlander said.

The international community is also gaining more awareness of Native American issues through Medicine Crow's achievements, Kortlander said. For example, a Japanese news agency recently ran a story about Medicine Crow's journey to the White House and, as a result, has received a high volume of positive responses.

Info: A full list of 2009 Medal of Freedom Recipients is available on the Web at:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President-Obama-Names-Medal-of-Freedom-Recipients/

Tribal Enterprises Have Successful Track Record through CDFI Fund

Many tribal enterprises are flourishing despite the tough economy, due in part to investments through the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund at the Treasury Dept., according to its director, Donna Gambrell. (*Continued on next page.*)

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Those success stories as well as new opportunities available from CDFI Fund were outlined during Gambrell's speech at the Annual Indian Country Tax Credit Conference, organized by Travois Inc., which works to assist tribes in promoting affordable housing and economic development. More than 150 attendees from 35 tribal organizations around the country attended the three-day conference.

Gambrell highlighted success stories like the Lakota Fund, which serves the Pine Ridge Reservation. The Lakota Fund received CDFI funding in the economic stimulus legislation, which allowed it to expand lending for emerging small businesses and entrepreneurs on the Reservation. The Lakota Fund made investments in Native American Natural Foods, a provider of foods sustainably grown within the community. One product, the Tanka energy bar, has been particularly successful and is available at 2,000 retail locations.

The CDFI Fund's Native Initiatives works to increase access to credit, capital, and financial services and provides direct financial assistance and technical assistance awards and through the Expanding Native Opportunities training programs. New rounds of the training programs can be found on the CDFI Fund's website.

Gambrell also encouraged the use of New Markets Tax Credits in Indian Country during her speech.

"We were extremely pleased Ms. Gambrell could join us to highlight the work of the CDFI Fund in Native communities," David Bland, chairman of Travois Inc. tells *NAR*. "Travois New Markets, a Community Development Entity (CDE), received a \$30 million allocation from the CDFI Fund in 2007 and is financing three economic development projects with that allocation, serving Native populations. We hope more Native communities learn about the opportunities available and take advantage of them."

Info: The complete text of Gambrell's speech is at <http://tinyurl.com/myexwq>; the Travois website is at www.travois.com; for more about the CDFI Fund, visit www.cdfifund.gov

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Indian Affairs Passes Justice Bill, Releases Energy Concept Paper

The Senate Indian Affairs Committee approved S.797, the Tribal Law & Order Act, during a business meeting September 10. The legislation aims to strengthen law and order on Indian reservations and in Alaska

Native villages by encouraging more prosecution of crime, increasing penalties for reservation offenders, reauthorizing key programs and establishing consistent protocols to address sexual violence.

Several amendments to the bill were approved, including one that addresses privacy concerns and one that establishes a prescription drug monitoring program.

New member Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) offered an amendment that requires the Interior and Justice departments to provide a report on how they will address trafficking of Indian women and girls.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) offered several amendments, including one authorizing the Government Accountability Office to study how the Indian Health Service responds to sexual assaults against American Indian and Alaska Native women.

The committee also reported out the following bills:

- **S. 1105** – Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act
- **S. 965** – Taos Pueblo Indian Water Rights Settlement Act
- **S. 375** – Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2009
- **S. 313** – White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2009
- **S. 1388** – Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation Grand Coulee Dam Equitable Compensation Settlement Act

All of the bills now await action on the Senate floor.

In related news the Committee, through ongoing discussions with Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and energy partners, Committee identified three major barriers to Indian energy development:

- (1) Outdated laws and cumbersome regulations for tribal energy development and programs;
- (2) Lack of tribal access to transmission grids; and
- (3) Difficulty in obtaining financing and investment for energy projects.

The committee released a concept paper to tribal leaders on September 10, 2009 to begin discussions on how to overcome these barriers. Committee staff will be holding a series of Indian energy roundtables to discuss the concept paper with tribal leaders and other stakeholders. Roundtables are planned over the next few months throughout Indian Country. The Committee Website: www.indian.senate.gov will provided updated information on dates and locations.

Info: The paper is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/nt7v23>; comments can be e-mailed with the subject line "Energy Concept Paper" to energy@indian.senate.gov or via fax: 202/228-2589.