



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #SAC-12-062

TITLE: Commemorate the Centennial of the First Successful Climb of Denali in 1913, with Alaska Native Walter Harper First to Reach the Summit

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Jefferson Keel
Chickasaw Nation

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Juana Majel Dixon
Pauma Band of Mission Indians

RECORDING SECRETARY
Edward Thomas
*Central Council of Tlingit & Haida
Indian Tribes of Alaska*

TREASURER
W. Ron Allen
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

ALASKA
Bill Martin
*Central Council of Tlingit & Haida
Indian Tribes of Alaska*

EASTERN OKLAHOMA
S. Joe Crittenden
Cherokee Nation

GREAT PLAINS
Robert Shepherd
Sisseton Wahpeton

MIDWEST
Matthew Wesaw
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

NORTHEAST
Lance Gumbs
Shinnecock Indian Nation

NORTHWEST
Fawn Sharp
Quinault Indian Nation

PACIFIC
Don Arnold
Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Scott Russell
Crow Tribe

SOUTHEAST
Larry Townsend
Lumbee Tribe

SOUTHERN PLAINS
George Thurman
Sac and Fox Nation

SOUTHWEST
Joe Garcia
Ohkay Owingeh

WESTERN
Ned Norris, Jr
Tohono O'odham Nation

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Johnson Pata
Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS
1516 P Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 2013, on the 100th Anniversary of the first successful ascent of Denali (Mt. McKinley), a team of bloodline family members will retrace their forefathers footsteps to commemorate the original team's tremendous accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, the original team led by Hudson Stuck / Harry Karstens included three Alaska Native youth with one of them, Walter Harper (age 21), being first to attain the Summit; and

WHEREAS, team member John Fred (later named John Fredson), a Gwich'in Indian (age 14), was base camp manager and cared for the dog team for the entire duration of the climb by himself (30 plus days), while hunting at altitude for sheep and caribou to provision the expedition; and

WHEREAS, Walter Harper was Koyukon Indian and trilingual in Koyukon, Gwich'in, and English and raised among the Gwich'in in Fort Yukon by Archdeacon Hudson Stuck who was headquartered in Fort Yukon's St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and later buried there; and

WHEREAS, a wonderful opportunity exists to inspire Alaska Native children everywhere by celebrating Athabascan heroes while educating children about the amazing accomplishment of the original climbing team; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium mission is to provide the highest quality health services in partnership with our people and the Alaska Tribal Health System; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium’s vision is that Alaska Natives are the healthiest people in the world, and that Walter Harper’s courageous first ascent of North America’s highest peak epitomizes that vision; and

WHEREAS, the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich’in Tribal Council is the tribal elected leadership body of the Gwich’in people of Fort Yukon where the 1st expedition originated.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the NCAI, that the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich’in Tribal Council urges the National Congress of American Indians, work with Alaska Federation of Natives Inc and also the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to partner with the Denali First Ascent Centennial Committee of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich’in Tribal Council urges the Tanana Chiefs Conference, the Alaska Federation of Natives and the National Congress of American Indians pass this resolution in support of pride in our Native history and heritage and as a symbol of inspiration for Alaska Native and American Indian youth everywhere; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2012 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Sacramento Convention Center from October 21-26, 2012 in Sacramento, California, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary