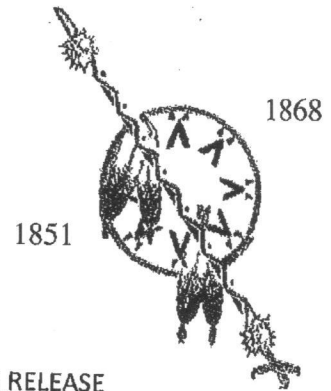


Oglala Sioux Tribe

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Pine Ridge, South Dakota – “I’m feeling very happy today,” said President John Yellow Bird Steele, President of the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, “that the Ramah Navajos, Zuni and Oglala Sioux Tribe contract support (Indirect Cost) shortfall struggles appear to be concluded. We are satisfied with the fine settlement that has been reached here. Previously they paternalistically shorted us and didn’t give a darn.. We are hopeful that we are now entering into a period of mutual cooperation with the Department of Interior. We hope the settlement clears the air for the future.”

The contract support shortfall struggles are the subject of the Supreme Court’s Salazar v. Ramah Navajo Chapter court case of which the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Zuni Pueblo are a part. The Supreme Court on June 18, 2012 ruled in favor of the Ramah Navajo Chapter litigants. The Oglala Sioux Tribe joined the litigation in 2000 and has been an active participant in trying to recover contract support costs that rightfully should have been paid to the Tribe.

In the 1970’s, under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, the Oglala Sioux Tribe entered into several contracts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs which gave the Tribes the authority to establish Tribal Charters to manage such services as public safety and education, and to exercise tribal self-determination for the management of services previously managed by the BIA. Such contracts were meant to authorize the Tribe’s full fiscal management of these resources to the same extent the Secretary of Interior would have run them. Unfortunately, due to funding shortfalls for the past several decades, the Tribes have been severely hampered in trying to manage the contracts at 100% levels of service.

The Contract Canons of Construction have now been applied to Indian self-determination contracts just as they are to contracts with defense contractors and paper clip manufacturers. That was previously missing.

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If you need additional information, please contact Mr. Kevin Steele, Public Relations Coordinator, OST President’s Office at (605) 867-8420.

Bio of John Yellow Bird Steele, President, Oglala Sioux Tribe

John Yellow Bird Steele recently was elected to his seventh nonconsecutive term as president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. He is the only OST member to serve more than two terms as the tribe's top official.

His first term as OST's president was from 1992 to 1994; then 1996-98; 2000-02; 2002-04; 2006-08; 2010-12; and 2014-16.

He was officially recognized for his leadership of the Oglala Lakota people and presented a Traditional Headdress on December 3, 2012.

John's longtime service within tribal government has secured his place as a historical figure throughout Indian Country and beyond.

He began his notable run in tribal government almost 40 years ago as a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council.

From 1982 to 1984 and again from 1984 to 1986, he served as the tribe's vice president.

During his long career, John has also served on numerous district community boards on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Additionally, he has served on numerous Native American-specific boards and committees outside of the Pine Ridge Reservation for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), National Indian Health Board (NIHB), National Indian Education Association (NIEA), Unified Tribal Health Board, National Indian Housing Association (NIHA), Black Hills Treaty Council and Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board (GPTCHB).

John was instrumental in developing personnel policies and procedures guidelines as well as an employee merit system for the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

John is a Vietnam Veteran. He served as a Vietnamese Linguist, U.S. Army Security Agency 1967-1971.

He has been married to Anna Little Dog since 1972. Together, they have raised nine children and 19 foster children. The couple also has 23 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



John Yellow Bird Steele

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