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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CANTOR).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 24, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ERIC CANTOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2001, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 25 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue past 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Ms. SOLIS) for 5 minutes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GABRIELENO/TONGVA NATION ACT

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, a long time ago the Gabrieleno and Tongva Nation of California occupied the entire LA Basin and the islands of Santa Catalina, San Nicholas and San Clemente, from Topanga Canyon to Laguna Beach, from the San Gabriel Mountains to the sea. It was their land.

The California Gold Rush and railroad expansion assured that their land was taken and today is one of the larg-

est urban centers in the world, but some things have not changed.

According to the Census figures, California's Native American population of over 309,000 became one of the largest in the State of California. Many of these Native Americans populate the area, making it the city with the largest concentration of Gabrieleno Indians. Yet they are not a federally recognized tribe.

It is not because they are not there. They are. They have been there for many centuries. In fact, dating as far back as the 1700s, 1771 to be exact, this Federal Government recognized the Gabrieleno and Tongva Nation.

Back in 1851, the U.S. Government sent Commissioner Barbour to establish a treaty with the Indians of Los Angeles but was suddenly called away, so that effort failed.

Back in 1852, the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, E.F. Beale, noted numerous Indian populations within Los Angeles County.

Numerous scholars and academics have also noted the existence of this nation, namely, Helen Hunt Jackson. In the mid-1880s she noted that the Gabrieleno/Tongva were continuing to live in the San Gabriel area as day laborers.

At the turn of the century, Hart Merriam and J.P. Harrington indicated that there were some groups of the nation living at the Tejon Reservation. It was further noted that one of the tribes represented at the reservation was the Tongva of San Gabriel.

In the early 1900s, the Federal Government allowed nation members, most of whom were ½ Indian blood, to register at the Sherman Indian School in Riverside, California.

The United States purchased land for the nation back in 1913, but by 1928 many nation members were still living in their traditional areas of San Gabriel and identifying themselves as tribal members, as evidenced by the California Indians' Jurisdictional Act.

Since 1928, the nation has participated in lobbying Congress via the Mission Indian Federation and was even a plaintiff in the Indian Claims Commission case.

Therefore, today I stand here to hopefully recognize and formalize this relationship that Commissioner Barbour was sent to treat back in 1851. Over and over again the Gabrieleno Indians have been the victims of bad timing or unfortunate circumstances, but nevertheless they exist today.

The bill federally recognizes the Gabrieleno Indians as a federally recognized tribe that will be eligible for current grants and services awarded to these entities. In a district like mine, this is a very significant and historical piece of legislation. In the 31st District of California, which is where I live and represent many, many constituents who live in poverty, this is no strange thing for us to be here today to recognize this very important tribe.

While Federal recognition would not guarantee necessarily food on their table, it would make this community eligible for housing, education, funds to clean the environment, and healthy care grants that would undoubtedly make their lives better.

It is important to note that this State-recognized tribe is not interested in gaming. In fact, they have turned away large companies that would have paid for their attorneys to fight for this Federal recognition. The tribe wants what is rightfully theirs, the recognition that they are always and have always been original citizens and we should treat them as such.

I ask my congressional colleagues here today to join me in providing Federal recognition of the Gabrieleno/Tongva Indians.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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