

The Congress of the United States also recognized the Verona Band pursuant to Chapter 14 of Title 25 of the United States Code, which was affirmed by the United States Court of Claims in the Case of Indians of California v. United States (1942) 98 Ct. Cl. 583.

The Court of Claims case judgment instructed the identification of the Indians of California with the creation of Indian rolls. The direct ancestors of the present-day Muwekma Ohlone Tribe participated in and enrolled under the 1928 California Indian Jurisdictional Act and the ensuing Claims Settlement of 1944 with the Secretary of the Interior approving all of their enrollment applications.

Meanwhile, as a result of inconsistent federal policies of neglect toward the California Indians, the government breached the trust responsibility relationship with the Muwekma tribe and left the Tribe landless and without either services or benefits. As a result, the Tribe has suffered losses and displacement. Despite these hardships the Tribe has never relinquished their Indian tribal status and their status was never terminated.

In 1984, in an attempt to have the federal government acknowledge the status of the Tribe, the Muwekma Ohlone people formally organized a tribal council in conformance with the guidelines under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.

In 1989, the Muwekma Ohlone Tribal leadership submitted a resolution to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Branch of Acknowledgement and Research with the intent to petition for Federal acknowledgement. This application is known as Petition #111. This federal process is known to take many years to complete.

Simultaneously, in the 1980's and 1990's, the United States Congress recognized the federal governments neglect of the California Indians and directed a Commission to study the history and current status of the California Indians and to deliver a report with recommendations. In the late 1990's the Congressional mandated report—the California Advisory Report, recommended that the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe be reaffirmed to its status as a federally recognized tribe along with five other Tribes, the Dunlap Band of Mono Indians, the Lower Lake Koi Tribe, the Tsnungwe Council, the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, and the Tolowa Nation.

On May 24, 1996, the Bureau of Indian Affairs pursuant to the regulatory process then issued a letter to the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe concluding that the Tribe was indeed a Federally Recognized Tribe.

In an effort to reaffirm their status and compel a timely decision by the Department of the interior, the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe sued the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Court has mandated that the Department issue a decision this year. That decision is expected in early August.

Specifically, on July 28, 2000, and again on June 11, 2002, Judge Ricardo Urbina wrote in his Introduction of his Memorandum Opinion Granting the Plaintiff's Motion to Amend the Court's Order (July 28, 2002) and Memorandum Order Denying the Defendant's to Alter or Amend the Court's Orders (June 11, 2002) affirmatively stating that:

"The Muwekma Tribe is a tribe of Ohlone Indians indigenous to the present-day San Francisco Bay area. In the early part of the Twentieth Century, the Department of the Interior ("DOI") recognized the Muwekma tribe as

an Indian tribe under the jurisdiction of the United States." (Civil Case No. 99-32671 RMU D.D.C.)

I proudly support the long struggle of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe as they continue to seek justice and to finally, and without further delay, achieve their goal of their reaffirmation of their tribal status by the federal government. This process has dragged on long enough. I hope that the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Department of Interior will do the right thing and act positively to grant the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe their rights as a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe. The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe has waited long enough; let them get on with their lives as they seek to improve the lives of the members of this proud tribe. To do anything else is to deny this Tribe Justice. They have waited patiently and should not have to wait any longer.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LUCILLE
GUTIERREZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lucille Gutierrez of Alamosa, Colorado, for her guidance and counseling of the youth of her community. It is a great pleasure to praise such an individual whose talents and gifts have enriched countless individuals. I applaud your efforts and congratulate you on a job very well done.

Lucille began her career as a teacher's aide in February of 1996. She excelled as a teacher and later became the educational site coordinator for the "Head Start" program, a program that offers early educational opportunities to preschoolers. Her volunteer work soon transformed into a full time position demanding long hours. Lucille's career began with 45 eager students, and she instilled in them crucial life skills and values.

This year, Lucille retires as a leader for our youth. Although she will remain active in the lives of many students, her schedule will not be as demanding as it once was. The program since her arrival has grown substantially and now 103 children at Adams State College, participating in the program, will benefit from the legacy of Lucille. Many students who will be saddened to see her retire speak her nickname 'grandma' with great affection. Lucille's colleagues in the profession are also saddened to see her go, but all understand and admire her decision to retire.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to commend Lucille Gutierrez before this body of Congress and this Nation. Her efforts and accomplishments are well respected and will be remembered by each individual she encountered. Thank you again, Lucille, for your contributions to future generations, and good luck in all your future endeavors.

FOOD CRISIS IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to speak on this very important global issue. My thanks, too, to the gentle lady from California, Representative WATERS, for bringing this critical issue to the Floor.

There are almost 13 million people in the southern part of Africa who are in danger of dying from starvation: a great number of these people are women and children. The severity of the food shortages in the region is due large in part by the severe drought affecting the area for the past decade.

Worldwide humanitarian aid directed to the country has helped to increase the life expectancy of Africa's citizens by nearly 20 years since 1960. Each year, humanitarian aid programs help save the lives of an estimated seven million African children, delivering essential food and medicine to disaster victims and assisting regional refugees fleeing their native countries because of political or economic unrest.

However, Mr. Chairman, to my chagrin, and to what should be an embarrassment to this country, less than half of 1 percent of all of the United States' foreign aid funding is directed to food relief and hunger abatement in nations around the world.

The United States now ranks fourth—behind Japan, behind France, and behind Germany—in the level of aid that we contributed to the world's poorest countries. The United States ranks LAST among the 21 richest nations in the percentage of our Gross National Product (GNP) used to fight world hunger and poverty.

Mr. Speaker, we need to increase the level of our humanitarian aid to Africa because it is the right thing to do; it is the moral thing to do. We are morally obligated, as citizens of a country where food is plentiful, to help people who are dying because of a lack of food.

Mr. Speaker, I would be happy if this House of Representatives appropriated \$1 billion toward hunger abatement efforts in southern Africa but I know there is a slim possibility of this happening.

However, I believe that this body can appropriate \$200 dollars to provide emergency supplemental relief to respond to the food crisis in Southern Africa, and I hope that we do.

JOHN E. MOSS FOUNDATION

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, the John E. Moss Foundation recently awarded its annual Public Service Award to our colleague, the Honorable DAVID OBEY of Wisconsin. The award, which is given each year to a member of the House or Senate who most exemplifies the qualities of integrity, courage and dedication to the public interest, is richly deserved by Congressman OBEY who has always fought hard for legislation benefiting the small investor, the working man, and the consumer. At