

Supreme Court. He helped integrate the Chicago Housing Authority and the public schools of Harrisburg, IL. In the South, he successfully challenged an amendment to the Alabama State constitution that used a "constitutional knowledge" test to deny African Americans the right to vote. He also helped to end the exclusion of African Americans from jury duty in Mississippi.

In 1951, 5 years after arriving in Chicago, George Leighton was indicted by a Cook County grand jury. His "crime"? Telling his clients, an African-American family, that they had a legal right to rent an apartment in the then all-White Chicago suburb of Cicero. Enraged neighbors rioted, nearly burning the apartment building nearly to the ground.

The county grand jury indicted George Leighton on charges of conspiracy to incite riot and lower property values. Judge Leighton was represented by his friend, Thurgood Marshall, and the indictment was quickly dismissed.

Not long after that, with the support of Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley, George Leighton was elected as a Cook County judge. He was later elevated to the State appellate court, the first African American to sit on that bench.

He served as a Federal judge from 1976 until 1989. He would have preferred to stay on the bench, but his beloved wife, Virginia, had suffered several strokes some time before. Judge Leighton's insistence to provide her with round-the-clock medical care had depleted the family's savings, and he needed to make more money.

He returned to private law practice, joining the Chicago firm of Neal & Leroy. His new partner, Langdon Neal, was the son of Judge Leighton's old friend. Judge Leighton could have joined any law firm in Chicago, but he chose once again to go with a small, minority-owned firm. That was important to him.

Langdon Neal tells the story about walking into the office early one morning to find the lights already on. He looked into Judge Leighton's office, saw him sprawled out on the floor, and feared the worst. Before his law partner could say a word, Judge Leighton pushed himself up and did 10 more push-ups. He was taking a rest during his morning exercises.

At 77, he still had a lot of fight still in him. For the next 22 years, he would practice law, looking and sounding like a man decades younger. At 97, his hearing, vision, and cholesterol were all still perfect, and he was only 3 pounds heavier than when he was released from Active military duty.

As a Cook County judge in 1965, Judge Leighton acquitted two Latino men accused of beating and slashing a Chicago police officer. Judge Leighton believed that the officers who testified against the men were lying, and he told them so.

The decision touched off a public furor and angry calls to remove Judge

Leighton from the bench. A Chicago Tribune reporter asked the judge if he feared for his safety. No, Judge Leighton quipped, "I'm making careful plans to die of old age in office."

Six years ago this month, June 2012, the Cook County courthouse where Judge Leighton acquitted those men, the courthouse where he first made his name as a civil rights lawyer in the 1940s and '50s and where he began his career as a judge, was renamed in his honor. "26th and Cal" is now the Judge George N. Leighton Criminal Court Building. It is one of many tributes in his honor.

In 2005, the main post office in his boyhood home of New Bedford, MA, was renamed in his honor. In 2008, the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission established the Honorable George N. Leighton Justice Award. Judge Leighton accepted these and other honors with grace, humility, and a bit of puzzlement. He was always genuinely surprised that people found his life worth celebrating in such ways.

There was only one honor that Judge Leighton wanted for himself at the end of his life. His final wish was to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Judge Leighton died in New Bedford on June 6, the 74th anniversary of D-Day. In a reflection of Judge Leighton's distinguished military service, his place in American history, and the esteem in which he was held by so many, Arlington National Cemetery has approved his burial in those hallowed grounds.

Sometime in the not-too-distant future, Judge George Leighton, the son of immigrants who bent the moral arc of history, will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. He will rest there in honor among such other American heroes as his old friend, Thurgood Marshall, General Benjamin O. Davis, the commander of the Tuskegee Airmen and the first African-American general in the U.S. Air Force, and other members of the Army's 93rd Infantry Division, with whom Judge Leighton fought with in World War II. It is a fitting final tribute to a great man who fought so long and in so many ways to preserve and defend freedom and liberty for all.

I am honored to have known him, and Loretta and I want to offer our condolences to his family, especially to his daughters, Virginia and Barbara, and their husbands, to Judge Leighton's five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, and to his friends and colleagues.

ENERGY AND WATER, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS BILL AND THE AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION BILL

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to discuss votes on final passage of H.R. 5895 and the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2.

I was not in Washington on Monday because I was visiting Senator JOHN MCCAIN at his ranch in Arizona.

The Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act of 2019, H.R. 5895, is the result of a commendable bipartisan negotiation process led by Chairman SHELBY and Ranking Member LEAHY of the Appropriations Committee. The bill includes strong funding for ongoing work on Bureau of Reclamation rural water projects like the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System that will benefit approximately 300,000 people in the southwest Minnesota, southeast South Dakota, and northwest Iowa regions. The bill also includes legislation I led with Senator TILLIS to create a center of excellence within the Department of Veterans Affairs to address the health conditions relating to exposure to burn pits. Had I been in Washington, I would have voted in favor of its passage.

The Agriculture and Nutrition Act, H.R. 2, passed the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee by a vote of 20 to 1. The bill will provide critical investments in communities in Minnesota and will provide much-needed certainty for our farmers and ranchers. The bill includes provisions I championed to continue investments in renewable energy programs, create an animal disease and disaster program, and provide support for our dairy farmers. Had I been in Washington, I would have voted in favor of the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the bill.

Thank you.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a statement from the National Sheriff's Association about border security and immigration reform be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION POSITION STATEMENT ON BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION REFORM

The Government Affairs Committee of the National Sheriffs' Association recommends to the Board that Sheriffs stand together to affirm that securing of the borders of the United States and reform of the Immigration System are the top legislative issues for the Association.

Sheriffs pledge that they will commit their influence and some financial resources of the Association to affecting a resolution to these issues.

The National Sheriffs' Association recognizes and supports results-based solutions that address or solve the multitude of challenges that ineffective border security has caused our nation and our communities.

Further, the Committee recommends that the Association vigorously supports any legislation that includes:

Support for following the Rule of Law for the legal immigration process;

Makes the Nation's borders secure through use of physical barriers, technology and increased manpower of the Customs & Border Patrol and ICE;

Sheriffs be given the statutory authority to honor ICE issued detainers for detaining illegal criminal aliens, as well as being granted indemnification under civil law and tort law for those detentions;

Have reasonable criminal background checks for all granted citizenship; and

Support for equitable and fair cost sharing through the allocation of funds to all non-federal agencies.

45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES RERECOGNIZING THE COUSHATTA TRIBE OF LOUISIANA

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, along with Senator KENNEDY, I wish to talk about the Coushatta Tribe. The Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana is descended from a large, powerful sovereign nation of Coushatta—Koasati—people who lived prosperously and peaceably for thousands of years in what is now the southeastern United States. The principal Coushatta—Koasati—villages were located on islands in the Tennessee River, in what is now south central Tennessee, which is where the Tribe was living when they first encountered the European explorer Hernando DeSoto in 1540.

Koasati oral tradition also holds that they were always the most northerly of the Muskogean-speaking peoples. Tribal elders say that their villages were “abon, fallami-fa” which literally means “above, to the north.” They believe that their tribal name comes from “Kowi iisa-fa aati-ha,” which is literally translated as “the people from [the lands] where the big cats live.” Some elders believe that the name Coosa given by the Spanish to the affiliated group of villages, what is now called the Coosa chiefdom, was actually pronounced “Kohosa” and thus the people were called “Kohosa Aati,” literally translated as the people—of Kohosa. Numerous period maps support these oral traditions, identifying these islands as “Cosauda”—Koasati, Coushatta, or some other spelling of the Tribe’s name. These include the Franquelin map of 1684, the 1711 Crisp et. al. map, and the 1720 Moll map.

When the Coushatta—Koasati—were moving southward from their villages on the Tennessee River in October 1686, they encountered the Spanish explorer Marcus Delgado. They explained to him that the two major reasons for their move were drought and aggression from the neighboring tribe of “Chalagues”—Cherokees.

The Coushatta—Koasati—initially settled in villages in the Guntersville Basin area of what is now northern Alabama, then moved a little further south to be allied with the political organization that became known as the Creek Confederacy. The present-day town of Coosada, AL is named for the Coushatta who lived in nearby villages.

The Coushattas entered into several treaties with the United States, starting with the Treaty of New York in 1790, signed for the Koasati by Alexander McGillivray and Chiefs Hopoy,

Muthtee, and Stimafutchkee, and the Creek Treaty of August 9, 1814, which was signed by Nomatlee Emautla—Captain Isaacs—of Cousoudee—Coushatta, Koasati.

When the Creek chiefs negotiated their boundary lines with the United States in 1814, they stated that their northernmost boundary should stretch to “Cosauda Island in the Tennessee River.” This is a clear indication that the Koasati people considered these lands in what is now Tennessee as their homelands, never renounced them, and that this claim was widely known and accepted by all of the Tribes. The transcribed text from the papers of the War Dept. is as follows:

We, the undersigned head men of the Creek nation, convened [on behalf of] General John Coffee, and the Confederate nations to adjust the line designated by the Treaty of Fort Jackson, and all [-] connected treaties [-] etc.—that the lines between the Cherokee nation and that part of the Creek nation added to the United States by the aforesaid Treaty ought, by right, to begin at the junction of the Eastern [-] with the Hightower [Etowah] river and continue from thence to the old Cosauda [Coushatta, Koasati] village on Cosauda Island in the Tennessee river.

In 1797, the great Coushatta Chief Red Shoes is said to have had a devastating vision of the coming Creek Wars, causing him to encourage about half of the Coushatta people to begin migrating westward. Numerous additional groups followed over the next 30 years. By the time of the Creek removals, the Coushatta—Koasati—people had split into three major groups: the present-day Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, and Alabama-Quassarte Tribal town in Oklahoma.

As a result of Red Shoes’ leadership, the Coushatta—Koasati—relocated to Spanish territories in Louisiana and Texas. By careful diplomacy, they were able to remain culturally, linguistically, and politically autonomous.

In an 1805 report to Congress, Agent John Sibley, appointed in 1804 as an Indian Agent for the Territory of Orleans, reported that he had told Red Shoes and “Pia Mingo”—Grass Chief—“the two Conchetta Chiefs,” that “their great Father the President considered all the Red people as his Children, and he would not suffer any wrong to be done them without giving them just & legal satisfaction.”

After living in villages along the Trinity River during the Civil War and Texas fight for statehood, the Coushattas returned to Louisiana to live in villages near the present-day town of Indian Village, near Kinder, LA. Existing laws allowed the tribe to get homestead lands along Bayou Blue, three miles north of Elton, LA.

On February 9, 1898, the United States issued an Indian trust patent for 160 acres to Sissy Robinson Alabama, a Coushatta woman. The land patent explicitly provides that the Robinson patent was granted under the Indian Homestead Act.

In 1933, the trust was divided under bureau supervision and the two parcels

were held in trust for the heirs of Sissy Robinson Alabama until June 11, 1953, when fee patents were issued to the heirs. Thus, the Federal Government exercised jurisdiction over Coushatta trust lands from 1898 through 1953.

In addition, according to a report to the Division of Investigations, dated March 14, 1941, 38 homesteads were granted by the General Land Office to members of the “Koasati Tribe living in the vicinity of Elton, Louisiana” between 1862–1941. The report concludes that, of the 38 homesteads, only two were granted in accordance “with applicable law,” i.e., under the Indian Homestead Act. The two correctly issued patents were, apparently, the Robinson patent, issued under the Indian Homestead Act, and another patent issued under the same act for the benefit of another member of the Coushatta Tribe.

On September 2, 1919, an attorney from Alexandria, LA, wrote to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on behalf of the Coushatta Tribe, asking for “allotted Indian lands.” The letter reached U.S. Representative James B. Aswell of Louisiana’s Eighth District, who in 1920 asked Mr. Cato Sells, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to provide him with the information sought by the Tribe.

On December 20, 1919, Frank E. Brandon, Special Supervisor of the United States Indian Service, issued a report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs describing the Indian groups in Louisiana. The report describes the Coushatta Tribe’s land predicament as follows:

There is approximately 1050 acres of land owned by the Indians divided among various families in tracts ranging from ten to two hundred acres which was acquired by them under the homestead laws. Originally they were induced to make such entries by timber companies who later purchased the timber from the Indians leaving the Indians a title to cut-over land of little value for agricultural purposes on account of it being low and flat with a clay soil which is best adapted to the production of rice.

The report goes on to recommend that the Federal Government purchase 40 acres of land for a farm station, erect a cottage on the land, and provide a farmer to direct the Tribe’s farming efforts. While Brandon’s recommendations do not appear to have been implemented, the fact that he made them demonstrates the Federal Government’s ongoing relationship with the Tribe.

Over the years, the U.S. Government further engaged with the Coushattas through agents, kept track of the Tribe’s status, and provided the Tribe with limited financial assistance including funds for food, supplies, education, a physician, and farming. The government also conducted a census of the Tribe and explicitly acknowledged that the Tribe was under the jurisdiction of Federal Indian agencies. In this way, the government recognized and exercised its government-to-government relationship with the Coushatta Tribe for almost 200 years.