

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 Confederated 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.

In 1954, Congress considered legislation that would terminate the government's recognition of the Coushatta Tribe, but this legislation was not passed, and the Tribe's recognition continued. However, for reasons unknown, the Tribe was not included in the well-known Haas Report of 1947 and was subsequently not included on the Federal Government's list of federally recognized tribes.

From 1954 to 1971, the Coushatta Tribe was therefore unofficially "terminated" through a series of clerical errors and technicalities. Despite no longer being unrecognized by the government and losing assistance, the Coushatta people survived through their hard work and determination.

However, in 1971, Ernest Stevens, Acting Commissioner at the BIA, wrote a detailed letter confirming Coushatta's longstanding relationship with the Federal Government. The Stevens letter confirmed that the Coushatta Tribe was a historical tribe that had never had its rights to Federal services terminated. "In the absence of such legislation, and in consideration of the possibility of a treaty relationship, we think that the Louisiana Coushattas are eligible for some special federal services to Indian people," Stevens wrote.

On June 27, 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior officially rerecognized their historical relationship with the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, and in 1975, the Secretary of the interior took land into trust for the Tribe's benefit.

In 1985, the Federal District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, Lake Charles Division, confirmed that the Coushatta's lands were "reservation lands" and that the State of Louisiana had no criminal jurisdiction over activities on such lands.

Through the continued efforts of Tribal leaders and community members, the Coushatta Tribe has steadily grown stronger in the 45 years since receiving rerecognition. From its initial reservation base of 15 acres, the Tribe now owns more than 6,000 acres in trust and fee-simple lands.

The Coushatta Tribe now operates more than 20 departments to provide services to members, including a health department and clinic, an education department, and social services department. The Tribe owns and operates Coushatta Casino Resort, the largest land-based casino in the State of Louisiana, and employs more than 3,000 people, making it one of the largest employers in the State.

Throughout its proud history, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana has played an important role in communities across the South. The Tribe looks forward to its continued growth and positive impact for many generations to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL THADDEUS J. MARTIN

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize MG Thaddeus J. Martin on the occasion of his retirement from his position as adjutant general of the Connecticut National Guard.

A dedicated member of our military, Major General Martin has influenced Connecticut for the better and set an impressive standard for the future of the Connecticut National Guard thanks to his decades of leadership and public service. He is well regarded by his peers and has consistently proven himself as a mindful and quick-thinking leader.

Major General Martin began his military service in 1977. He received his commission in the U.S. Air Force through officer training school in 1980 and completed training as an aircraft maintenance officer in 1981. Throughout his years on Active service, he held several squadron and wing-level assignments and completed a major command headquarters tour with Strategic Air Command.

After joining the Connecticut Air National Guard in 1990, he held command positions at the squadron, group, and wing level and completed a statutory tour with the National Guard Bureau. He also served as the assistant adjutant general for the Connecticut Air National Guard prior to becoming the adjutant general of the Connecticut National Guard.

Major General Martin is the longest currently tenured adjutant general in the Nation and the third longest serving adjutant general in Connecticut's history, having reached 13 years in the position last month. During his time as adjutant general, he oversaw the Connecticut National Guard with great integrity, addressing emergencies in the area, and offering military support on behalf of the United States wherever necessary. Major General Martin's decades of service to our Nation enabled him to diligently and tirelessly carry out his responsibilities of providing forces for the Governor and Chief of the National Guard Bureau that were always mission-ready. As the direct link to National Guard State resources, he routinely worked to better prepare Connecticut and the Guard to face new challenges.

Already in his first year as adjutant general, he dealt with challenges from the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Major General Martin played a key role in establishing a lasting flying mission for Connecticut by helping to organize the transition from the A-10 Warthog to the C-130H Hercules tactical airlift platform. This flying mission recently marked its first-ever large-scale overseas deployment as a C-130 unit.

Over the past 13 years, the Connecticut National Guard has assisted

with relief efforts resulting from a number of natural disasters, including Hurricanes Katrina, Harvey, and Maria, along with Superstorm Sandy, by providing essential supplies, equipment, and personnel. Additionally, over 6,000 Connecticut Army and Air guardsmen deployed in order to support international efforts. All of this was accomplished under the leadership of Major General Martin.

The Connecticut National Guard is a critical part of our State, and the unflinching commitment and leadership of Major General Martin during his tenure as adjutant general leaves his successor with an impressive and accomplished Guard that will undoubtedly continue to valiantly serve Connecticut and the Nation in the future.

I applaud his lifetime of service and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Major General Martin on his well-earned retirement. •

TRICENTENNIAL OF FALMOUTH, MAINE

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the town of Falmouth, ME, which is celebrating its 300th anniversary this year. Falmouth is renowned for its jagged coastline, vibrant rural area, and picturesque forest preserve. Located on the coast of southern Maine and spanning approximately 32 square miles, Falmouth is proudly home to roughly 11,000 residents. The town's rich history dates back to 1718, when Falmouth was incorporated as a part of New Casco. For its third centennial, Falmouth community members have dedicated 2018 to honoring their past, celebrating their present, and investing in their future.

Around the time of the Revolutionary War, Falmouth separated from New Casco and became the settlement that we are familiar with today. In 1820, Falmouth was among the towns that voted with an overwhelming majority to secede from Massachusetts and become the State of Maine. At the time of its establishment, the townspeople's primary occupations were forestry, agriculture, and fishing. The original settlers of Falmouth possessed a strong work ethic that ensured their families' survival in the northern wilderness.

Today, the town of Falmouth prides itself on fostering a colorful, modern and ever-changing environment. Town officers effectively balance the scenic atmosphere of the coastal Maine town with the 21st century need for economic development to keep Falmouth a thriving and innovative community. This year, a series of events including charitable fundraisers, outdoor education activities, and historical learning opportunities will be held to celebrate Falmouth's local businesses and organizations as integral members of the community. These efforts create a comfortable environment to live, work, and learn.

In the coming years, this Falmouth community will continue to celebrate