

ORDINANCE OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL  
OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE  
(An Unincorporated Tribe)

ORDINANCE OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL PROCLAIMING THE DAY OF FEBRUARY 27, 1973 AS A DAY OF LIBERATION FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN NORTH AMERICA, ACKNOWLEDGING THE WOUNDED KNEE PROTEST AS A HISTORIC AND CULTURAL EVENT WHICH BROUGHT ATTENTION TO INDIAN ISSUES AND INDIAN SOVEREIGNTY.

WHEREAS, the United States Congress established the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota, in 1889, and has recognized the Oglala Sioux Tribal Constitution and By-Laws since 1934 (25 U.S.C. Section 461 et. seq.), and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has continuously ruled that the United States Congress holds a treaty and trust responsibility for American Indian people on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, et al., and

WHEREAS, on February 26-27, 1973, Oglala Lakota tribal members gathered at the historic Calico Hall north of Pine Ridge, SD. Thereupon, the Oglala Sioux Civil Rights Organization, in collaboration with the National American Indian Movement and their legal advisers, documented hundreds of Human Rights complaints of Oglala Sioux tribal members regarding human rights abuses by tribal administrators, and conditions the people were living under, and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 1973, a group of Indian and non-Indian people, led by the American Indian Movement, occupied the hamlet of Wounded Knee in dramatic protest against unequal treatment, implorable living conditions, treaty violations, human rights violations and the failure of the fiduciary responsibility of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the United States Congress over American Indians, and

WHEREAS, the 1973 Wounded Knee Liberation consequently prompted close scrutiny by the world community toward United States policy and United States treatment of indigenous peoples in North, South, and Central America, and

WHEREAS, the 1973 Wounded Knee Liberation became a powerful symbol of the resurgence of American Indian spirituality and pride across the United States, thereby inspiring the academic, religious, social, economic, and cultural institutions among American Indian people across the United States, and

WHEREAS, the 1973 Wounded Knee Liberation has never been formally recognized by any Indian Reorganization Act Tribal Government as a historic or cultural event in American Indian history, now

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council does hereby formally recognize and acknowledge the February 27, 1973 Wounded Knee Liberation by members of the Independent Oglala Nation and the American Indian Movement, as a historic and cultural event in Oglala Lakota National history, and


BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that, from this day forward, any and all records, documents, memorandums, notices, photos, video footage and audio recordings of the 1973 Wounded Knee Liberation, which are in possession of individuals or institutions, shall be encouraged to be filed and stored at the Oglala Sioux Tribal Archives, located at the central offices of the Oglala Lakota College, Piya Wiconi, Kyle, South Dakota, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that, from the date of certification of this Ordinance, no photographs, video or audio recordings shall be allowed at the Wounded Knee site without the written consent of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and/or the Oglala Lakota College Archives, and

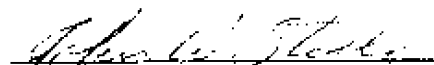
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Oglala Sioux Tribe shall proclaim the day of February 27, as a day of Liberation for Lakota people, but as well as all Indigenous people in North American and will be held to celebrate yearly this day of Liberation as a tribal holiday.

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-I-O-N

I, as undersigned Secretary of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council, hereby certify that this Ordinance was adopted by the vote of: 15 for; 1 against; 0 abstain; and 0 not voting, during a REGULAR SESSION held on the 22nd day of JANUARY, 1998.

  
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THERESA B. TWO BULLS  
Secretary  
Oglala Sioux Tribe

A-T-T-E-S-T:

  
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JOHN W. STEELE  
President  
Oglala Sioux Tribe

