

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

B 2014 003

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Creating the Sand Creek Massacre Commemoration Commission

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, and in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2, of the Colorado Constitution, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order creating the Sand Creek Massacre Commemoration Commission.

I. Background, Need and Purpose

On November 29, 1864, approximately 675 United States soldiers killed more than 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho villagers who were living peacefully near Fort Lyon, Colorado, a place where American negotiators had assured they would be safe. Cheyenne Chief Black Kettle's village had raised a U.S. flag and a white flag as symbols of peace, but Colonel John Chivington ignored the banners and ordered his troops to take no prisoners. Ambushed and outnumbered, the Cheyenne and Arapaho villagers fled on foot to the bottom of the dry stream bed. After eight hours, the shooting finally stopped and the village was pillaged and set ablaze. Most of the dead were women, children, and elderly men. The few survivors sought safety in neighboring camps, but the descendants' lives were forever changed. The Sand Creek Massacre deeply impacts the sovereign Tribal nations whose ancestors were massacred that tragic day, and preventing atrocities such as this in the future is imperative.

Generations later, healing from the Sand Creek Massacre continues. The annual Sand Creek Massacre Spiritual Healing Run, spanning from the massacre site to the Colorado State Capitol, honors all those who died and highlights the need for continued understanding among different cultures. In 2000, President Clinton signed a bill authorizing the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site near Eads, Colorado.

To advance awareness efforts, several groups representing tribal, federal, state, and local governments, historians, scholars, religious leaders, and higher education institutions have come together to coordinate activities, exhibitions, education curriculum, lectures, memorials, and other events to commemorate the 150-year anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre in November of 2014.

II. Mission and Scope

The mission of the Commission shall be to engage in efforts to raise awareness and educate the public of the tragedy at Sand Creek and the events surrounding it. With guidance and assistance from tribal leadership and the Sand Creek Massacre Descendant Committee representatives, the Commission will determine the culturally relevant ways that the Sand Creek Massacre 150-year anniversary can be commemorated to continue the healing process. Additionally, the Commission will examine the Sand Creek Massacre's modern day relevance on the importance of government-to-government relations and in accordance to the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2000, PL 106-465. The Commission will expand community outreach so that the stories of the descendants of the Sand Creek Massacre can be heard and received in hopes of reconciling the past and educating the public to prevent such heinous events in the future.

III. Membership

The Governor may appoint other members as needed. Initial members of the Commission shall include the following:

Appointed by the Governor to serve until December 30, 2014:

Honorable John W. Hickenlooper, Governor, State of Colorado, Co-Chair;

Honorable Joseph A. Garcia, Lieutenant Governor, State of Colorado, Co-Chair;

Honorable Gregory Hobbs, Justice, State Supreme Court, appointed;

Alexa Roberts, as a representative of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, National Park Service, appointed;

Ernest House, Jr., as a representative of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, appointed;

Edward Nichols, as a representative of History Colorado, appointed;

Darius Smith, as a representative of the City and County of Denver, appointed;

Nancy Wadsworth, as a representative of the University of Denver, appointed;

Thomas Wolfe, as a representative of the Iliff School of Theology, appointed;

Holly Arnold Kinney, as a representative of the Tesoro Cultural Center and business owner, appointed;

David Halaas, as a Cheyenne Historian, appointed;

Thomas Meier, as a Northern Arapaho Historian, appointed;

Elaine J.W. Stanovsky, as a representative of the Mountain Sky Episcopal Area of United Methodist Church, appointed;

Patricia Calhoun, as a public member, appointed.

Other members shall include:

Two members of the Colorado General Assembly, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate.

Llevando Fisher, President, Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana or delegate;

Otto Braided Hair, as a representative of the Sand Creek Massacre Descendant Committee, Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana;

Norma Gourneau, to serve as a representative of the Sand Creek Massacre Descendant Committee, Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana

Darrell O'Neal, Sr., Chairman, Northern Arapaho Tribe of Wyoming or delegate;

Al Addison, Sr., Northern Arapaho Business Councilman, Northern Arapaho Tribe of Wyoming;

Gail Ridgely, to serve as a representative of the Sand Creek Massacre Descendant Committee, Northern Arapaho Tribe of Wyoming;

Ben Ridgely, to serve as a representative of the Sand Creek Massacre Descendant Committee, Northern Arapaho Tribe of Wyoming;

Eddie Hamilton, Governor, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma or delegate;

Max Bear, to serve as a representative of the Sand Creek Massacre Descendant Committee, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma;

Joe Big Medicine, to serve as a representative of the Sand Creek Massacre Descendant Committee, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma;

Henry Little Bird, Sr., to serve as a representative of the Sand Creek Massacre Descendant Committee, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma;

Karen Little Coyote, to serve as a representative of the Sand Creek Massacre Descendant Committee, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma.

IV. Duration

This Executive Order shall continue in existence until December 30, 2014, unless it is either terminated or extended beyond that date by further Executive Order of the Governor.



GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado, this fourteenth day
of March, 2014.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "John W. Hickenlooper".

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor