FOUR DIRECTIONS NATIVE VOTE

EQUALITY AT THE BALLOT BOX ALL ACROSS INDIAN COUNTRY

Fourdirectionsvote.com

January 7, 2025

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the Remove the Stain Act

Dear Senator Warren:

On December 29, 1890, a 134 years ago, members of the 7th Cavalry Regiment committed an atrocity against our ancestors, murdering hundreds of defenseless Lakota men, women, and children at Wounded Knee. What was a massacre by any standard, was deemed a "battle" by the United States Army and as a result, 20 soldiers who took part in this atrocity were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

We write to you today in support of the Remove the Stain Act, being introduced by United States yourself and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.).

On February 4, 2019, we wrote a letter to President Trump, Vice President Pence and Secretary of Defense Patrick M. Shanahan and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph F. Dunford Jr. asking they join our organization, Four Directions in righting a grave historical wrong by removing the Medals of Honor awarded to the perpetrators of the Wounded Knee Massacre. On February 8, 2019, we wrote a similar letter to the United States Senate Committee on Armed Services. Sadly, we never received a response to our letters and can only conclude our requests were ignored.

On July 19, 2024 Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin ordered a Review of Medals of Honor Awarded for Actions Related to the Engagement at Wounded Knee Creek, on December 29, 1890. A review panel was ordered consisting of 3 personnel from the Department of Defense and 2 from the Department of Interior. The panel had a deadline of October 15, 2024, to provide a report to retain or rescind the Medals of Honor awarded. The report was submitted with 3 individuals from DOD recommending retaining and 2 individuals from DOI recommending rescinding. We believe the review was flawed in that no historical scholars were included within the panel.

On behalf of our organization, Four Directions Native Vote and the Descendants of the Wounded Knee Massacre, we write this letter of support of the proposed legislation - not to rewrite history, but to ensure it is accurate and just - not only for the citizens of the United State but for the world.

Respectfully submitted.

Oliver & Barbara Semans

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Co-Executive Directors
Four Directions Native Vote