



The National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

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October 24, 2005

Dear Tribal Leader:

Please join us in commemorating the 15th Anniversary of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act in Albuquerque, New Mexico on November 15-16, 2005. The National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO), which is a national non-profit membership organization of tribal governments from around the country, is serving as the coordinator for this historic event.

On November 16, 1990, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) directed federal agencies and museums in receipt of federal funds to work with tribal governments in returning Native American human remains and certain cultural items. Prior to this Act, collection of human remains and sacred items and objects of cultural patrimony were collected by various means and Native people were disenfranchised from asserting our cultural property rights. In the 15 years since its passage, over 31,000 ancestors have been identified for repatriation with 627,323 associated funerary objects. Federal agencies and museums have given notice of intent to repatriate 87,105 unassociated funerary objects, 3,413 sacred objects, and 981 objects of cultural patrimony.

NATHPO is convening a National Meeting of tribal representatives to discuss how NAGPRA has served their communities, as well as highlight some remaining challenges. We are currently compiling a summary that documents the many success stories (see attached form) that were a direct result of NAGPRA. NATHPO is also coordinating an Evening Reception at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center on Wednesday, November 16, 2005, which is the 15th anniversary of when the Act was signed into law (November 16, 1990).

Meeting: National Meeting of tribal representatives to discuss how NAGPRA has served their communities and identify remaining challenges.

Date: Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Time: 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Place: San Miguel Room, Albuquerque Convention Center, 401 2nd Street NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102 (across the street from the Doubletree Hotel on Marquette Street)



Evening Reception on the 15th Anniversary of the Enactment of NAGPRA

Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2005 (Act signed into law on Nov. 16, 1990)

Time: 6:00pm to 8:30pm

Place: Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, 2401 - 12th Street, NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104. www.indianpueblo.org (Tel 505 843 7270)

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Please let us know if you, your tribe's NAGPRA representative, or cultural resource staff will be attending the National Meeting of tribal representatives or if you would like to co-sponsor this important commemoration.

NATHPO Contact Information:
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We look forward to seeing you in Albuquerque next month.

Sincerely,



D. Bambi Kraus, President

The National Park Service, National NAGPRA Program, will be convening the following activities the week of November 14-17, 2005, in Albuquerque, New Mexico:

Monday, Nov. 14th: National NAGPRA Program training course

Tuesday, Nov. 15th: Consultation on Unclaimed Cultural Items

- * Tribal Consultation from 8:30am to 12noon
- * Museum Consultation from 1pm to 4:30pm

Wed., Nov. 16-17: National NAGPRA Review Committee consultation and meeting

All NPS meetings will be held in the Albuquerque Convention Center. The National Park Service (NPS) has reserved a block of lodging rooms at a reduced rate at the Doubletree Hotel. Call (505) 247 3344 and reference the National NAGPRA Program; reservations must be made by Monday, October 31, 2005.

For more information about any of the NPS events, please see their website: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/>.