Richard Nixon and the American Indian: The Movement to Self-Determination

November 15, 2012, 10:30 a.m.

Rasmuson Theater
National Museum of the American Indian
Washington, D.C.

WELCOME

RONALD H. WALKER
Chairman, Richard Nixon Foundation
JAMES GARDNER
Executive for Legislative Archives, Presidential Libraries, and Museum Services, National Archives
KEVIN GOVER
Director, National Museum of the American Indian

PANEL PROGRAM

ROBERT T. ANDERSON
REID PEYTON CHAMBERS
KEVIN GOVER
LEE W. HUEBNER
BOBBIE KILBERG
WALLACE H. JOHNSON
Moderator
ROBERT T. ANDERSON
Robert Anderson (Chippewa, Bois Forte Band) is Professor of Law and Director of the Native American Law Center at the University of Washington, and Oneida Indian Nation Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. He served in the Clinton administration under U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, and in 2008 was the co-lead of President Obama’s transition team for the Interior Department.

REID PEYTON CHAMBERS
Reid Peyton Chambers served as the Associate Solicitor of Indian Affairs for the U.S. Department of the Interior under President Nixon. He has continued to advocate for Indian rights at Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, where he is a name partner. He has also taught a seminar on Federal Indian Law at Georgetown University, and has contributed his expertise to other institutions, teaching at Yale, UCLA, and the University of Tulsa, where he was the Chapman Distinguished Visiting Professor.

JAMES GARDNER
Jim Gardner is the Executive for Legislative Archives, Presidential Libraries, and Museum Services of the National Archives, where he provides executive direction, guidance, strategic coordination, and evaluation of national education and exhibits programs. He has more than 30 years of experience leading complex national public and private organizations, including the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, the American Historical Association, and the American Association for State and Local History. Gardner holds a master’s degree and a doctorate in history from Vanderbilt University and an undergraduate degree in history from Rhodes College.

KEVIN GOVER
Kevin Gover (Pawnee) is Director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian. Previously he was the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior during the Clinton administration. Gover was also Professor of Law at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University in Tempe, Affiliate Professor in the university’s American Indian Studies Program, and Co-Executive Director of its American Indian Policy Institute.

LEE W. HUEBNER
Lee Huebner served as Deputy Director of the White House research and writing staff under President Nixon and drafted the July 8, 1970 Special Message to Congress on Indian Affairs. He went on to become Publisher and CEO of the International Herald Tribune, President of the American University of Paris, and a professor at Northwestern University. He is currently the Airlie Professor of Media and Public Affairs at the George Washington University.

WALLACE H. JOHNSON
Wallace Johnson served as Assistant Attorney General for Land and Natural Resources in the Nixon administration. During his tenure there, he created the Indian Rights Litigation Section. Previously he served as Special Assistant to President Nixon, and in several Justice Department and Senate Judiciary Committee assignments. Johnson also serves as a trustee of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming, which houses the Plains Indian Museum.

BOBBIE KILBERG
Bobbie Kilberg served as a White House Fellow and Staff Assistant on President Nixon’s Domestic Council where she was responsible for the development of the President’s Indian Policy of Self-Determination and the return of Blue Lake to Taos Pueblo. She went on to serve as Associate Counsel to President Gerald R. Ford, and Deputy Assistant to the President for Public Liaison and Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs under President George H. W. Bush. She is currently the President and CEO of the Northern Virginia Technology Council, the largest technology council in the nation.

RONALD H. WALKER
Ron Walker came out of retirement in 2009 to lead the Richard Nixon Foundation as President, and became Chairman in 2010. He served President Nixon as Special Assistant and Director of Presidential Advance, and then as Director of the National Park Service. He later served as CEO of the 1984 Republican National Convention in Dallas, Chairman of the 50th Presidential Inaugural for President Reagan in 1985, and as Senior Partner and Managing Director of Korn Ferry International for more than 20 years.

White House signing ceremony for H.R. 471, which returned Blue Lake and surrounding lands in New Mexico to Taos Pueblo, December 15, 1970. Photo by Oliver F. Atkins, courtesy of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library.