

Colonel Tackett currently serves as the Adjutant General, West Virginia National Guard, headquartered in Charleston. Prior to this, he held many demanding and key positions, before assuming his prestigious command of nearly six thousand men and women serving in the West Virginia National Guard.

At present, Colonel Tackett has over 32 years of dedicated service in the National Guard, to our country and the State of West Virginia. He earned a commission in June, 1967, from Infantry Officer Candidate School, at Fort Benning, Georgia. Colonel Tackett is a military graduate of the Special Warfare Center, Jumpmaster Course, Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Command and General Staff College, and the Special Warfare Center, Techniques of Special Operations.

Colonel Tackett's major decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal, Humanitarian Medal and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal. He was awarded, through rigorous training and proven proficiency, the coveted Special Forces Tab and Master Parachutist Badge.

Mr. President, I am pleased to cast my vote for the confirmation of Colonel Allen E. Tackett as Brigadier General, and I urge my colleagues to support this nomination.

NOMINATION OF COLONEL JOHN E. BARNETTE

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I am pleased that the President has nominated Colonel John E. Barnette for the rank of Brigadier General. Colonel Barnette, a native of Princeton, West Virginia, earned an undergraduate degree from West Virginia State College, a master's degree from West Virginia College of Graduate Studies, and a Doctoral degree from West Virginia University.

Colonel Barnette has held many responsible positions within the West Virginia Army National Guard since he was commissioned in July, 1969, from Officer Candidate School, West Virginia Military Academy. Most recently, he has been assigned as the Assistant Adjutant General (Army) of the West Virginia National Guard, headquartered in Charleston.

Prior to his current assignment, Colonel Barnette served as the West Virginia Deputy State Area Commander, West Virginia Army National Guard.

Colonel Barnette has over 28 years of dedicated service in the National Guard. He is a graduate of the Armored Officer's Basic and Advanced Courses and the Command and General Staff College. Colonel Barnette's major decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Mr. President, I am pleased to cast my vote for the confirmation of Colo-

nel John E. Barnette as Brigadier General, and I urge my colleagues to support this nomination.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

CROW CREEK SIOUX TRIBE INFRA-STRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND ACT OF 1996

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 587, H.R. 2512.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2512) to provide for certain benefits of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River basin program to the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

H.R. 2512

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 2512, the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe Infrastructure Development Trust Fund Act of 1996. This bill provides for the long-delayed fulfillment of promises made by Congress to the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of South Dakota. These promises were for compensation for the impacts on the Tribe that resulted from the inundation of more than 15,000 acres of the best land on the Crow Creek reservation, including the relocation of Fort Thompson, the principal community on the reservation. The inundation was caused by the construction of Fort Randall and Big Bend dams on the Missouri River pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944, otherwise known as the Missouri River Basin Pick-Sloan Project.

H.R. 2512 provides for creation of a trust fund in the United States Treasury for the benefit of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe that would be funded with \$27,500,000 from receipts of deposits from the Pick-Sloan power program of the Western Area Power Administration. Only the interest on the fund would be made available to the Tribe, without fiscal year limitations, to spend on implementing a plan for socioeconomic recovery and cultural preservation. This plan will include a variety of infrastructure and related projects that Congress in 1962 directed the Interior Department and the United States Corps of Engineers to provide to the Tribe, but which were either inadequately provided or not provided at all. Among these projects is a high school, a water system, and a community center with a gymnasium and auditorium.

The Committee on Indian Affairs and the House Resources Committee conducted a joint hearing on H.R. 2512 and on a Senate companion bill, S. 1264. The record of that hearing includes extensive historical information on the Big Bend and Fort Randall dam projects, the commitments made by the United States to the Crow Creek Tribe for compensation with respect to these projects, and the extent to which those commitments were not fulfilled. The record is clear that the additional compensation that would be provided by H.R. 2512 is not only well-justified but also long overdue.

It should be noted that the Crow Creek trust fund that would be provided by this legislation is proportionate to trust funds established by Congress in 1992 for the Standing Rock Sioux and Fort Berthold Tribes. The 1992 Standing Rock and Fort Berthold legislation was enacted based on the findings and recommendations of a congressionally mandated joint tribal-Federal task force. This task force studied the impacts of the construction of Oahe and Garrison dams on the Standing Rock and Fort Berthold Reservations, including the inundation of a combined total of more than 200,000 acres of the best lands on those reservations.

Mr. President, the construction of huge, multipurpose dam projects by the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation earlier in this century brought major economic and other benefits to large numbers of people and interests in various parts of the United States. However, these benefits often came at a very high price to others. In the case of the dam projects authorized under the Pick-Sloan Project, the greatest price was paid by Indian tribes whose reservations lie along the Missouri River in North and South Dakota. These tribes saw much of their best farm land flooded, long-established communities relocated, families disrupted, and a way of life changed forever. The human price they paid is beyond calculation.

Regrettably, the conduct of the agencies of the United States government, including the Congress, with respect to the Indian tribes affected by Pick-Sloan Project construction often did not live up to the fair and honorable dealings standard that the tribes had a right and reason to expect from the United States as their trustee. In light of the well-documented history of this conduct with respect to the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, I believe that enacting H.R. 2512 is a fair and honorable course for this Congress to take.

Mr. President, this legislation is supported by the State of South Dakota, its congressional delegation, and the Administration, in addition to the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. The House recently passed H.R. 2512 by voice vote, and the Committee on Indian Affairs has favorably reported companion legislation to the Senate. Accordingly, I strongly urge the Senate to pass H.R.