



Rachel Talmadge photo for the Spilyay

Tribal members rode the sternwheeler on the Columbia at Cascade Locks, during the recent Festival of Nations.

Indian revolutionary's statue installed at Capitol

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — A statue of the Pueblo leader who led a revolt against the Spanish in 1680 that changed the way the settlers treated Indians this month became the 100th and final work added to the U.S. Capitol National Statuary Hall.

In a ceremony that blended patriotic music and politics with tribal dancing and prayer, New Mexico's congressional delegation dedicated the statue of Po'pay, calling him the leader of "the First American revolution."

"Those early days were hard, and like it or not, often very brutal," Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said. "The Po'pay-led insurrection against the Spanish conquerors was at its core a basic human and American need to challenge oppressors. This statue represents not only the history of a single man but a legacy that helped ensure the survival of pueblo and American Indian culture in New Mexico."

The statue, by Jemez Pueblo

sculptor Cliff Fragua, was formally accepted by House and Senate leaders at the dedication. Although it is not the first statue of an American Indian — others include Sacagawea and Cherokee leader Sequoyah — it is the first by a native artist.

Each state was given a chance to dedicate two statues to stand in the National Statuary Hall. Po'pay's is the last added to the collection. New Mexico's other statue, of the late Sen. Dennis Chavez, was installed in 1966.

In 1675, Po'pay — sometimes spelled Pope — was one of 47 religious leaders imprisoned, hanged and tortured by the Spanish. Po'pay survived, and in 1680, joined other pueblo leaders in a bloody rebellion that drove the Spanish from the area for 12 years.

When they returned, the Spanish changed their approach to the Indians, who were mostly able to keep their religion, land and languages.

Po'pay was chosen for New Mexico's second statue by state

lawmakers after a bitter debate. Critics argued he was a radical, a dictator and a murderer.

But Thursday, there was no hint of the controversy.

"The legacy of Po'pay is still with us today and is part of what makes New Mexico so different and so special," said Rep. Heather Wilson, R-N.M. "We enjoy a blending of cultures respectful of each other unlike anywhere else in America."

The 7-foot-tall statue of Po'pay — Tewa for "Ripe Pumpkin" — shows the religious leader wearing a cloak draped over his bare chest and holding a knotted rope, by which the pueblo rebels counted the days until their revolt.

The ceremony was held in the Capitol Rotunda. Dozens of members of New Mexico pueblos attended the dedication, which closed with a ceremonial "Winter Buffalo Dance." Three dancers — two in buffalo headgear decorated with feathers — offered blessings and thanks in time to a drumbeat.

Oregon-hatched 'Thunderbird' released

(AP) — The first California condor chick hatched in Oregon in more than a century was set free in California earlier this month, the Oregon Zoo reported.

The condor, 15-month-old Kun Wak Shun, had been fostered by an established condor pair.

Though there are no plans yet to release California con-

dors in Oregon, the California condor's former range did extend as far north as the Columbia River.

Explorers Lewis and Clark documented sightings in their journal, calling it a "Vulture of the Columbia" and noted that the species was common. The condor, or Thunderbird, was last seen in Oregon in 1904, near the town of Drain.

Former Oregon Zoo Assistant Condor Curator Joe Burnett, now Condor Coordinator at Ventana Wilderness Society, coordinated the release at Pinnacles National Monument in central California.

The bird was fitted with a GPS satellite tracking tag and was released with four other condors his age.

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