

# Talimali Band the Apalalachee Indians of Louisiana

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To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Arthur Bennett and I am the Chief of the Talimali Band the Apalachee Indians of Louisiana. I would like you to know some things about our tribe such as that we govern ourselves under a chiefdom. We have governed ourselves under a chiefdom for hundreds of years. Our constitution is based on our tribal history, customs and traditions. The governing body of our tribe approved our Constitution decades ago and it was submitted with our petition for federal recognition to the BIA in Washington, D.C.

Our tribe does not accept someone as a citizen just because they are kin. We do this to maintain tribal integrity.

Our tribe has had the name Talimali Band the Apalachee Indians of Louisiana since 1996 and were formerly the Apalachee Indians of Louisiana.

We applied for and received two grants. The money was used to research and prepare our petition to be federally recognized. The BIA said our petition met the standards to simply be reinstated. Dr. Pete Gregory, Donald Hunter and Dr. Winston Deville, (a genealogist who

worked extensively with our tribe), as well as Dr. Dayna Bowker Lee, have been good friends to our tribe over the years. Dr. Lee still supports our tribe.

We put a Bill up to be State Recognized in 2002 with the help of a Senator and a Representative. The leadership of our tribe rejected the Recognition due to the fact the state of Louisiana wanted us to give up all our rights.

We assisted Pat Arnould and Joey Strickland with the legislation that created the Native American Scholarship program. That is why we are the only non-State Recognized tribe who is allowed to participate in the program.

Our tribe is originally from Florida. We worked closely with the state of Florida on the reconstruction of Mission San Luis in Tallahassee. Our tribe is prominently displayed within Mission San Luis in the museum. Our photographs and a speech given by our chief is displayed on the wall and tribal artistry work is exhibited in displays. The City of Tallahassee made a proclamation recognizing the Talimali Band the Apalachee Indians as the descendants of the people from Mission San Luis.

We've worked closely with Florida State University anthropologists and archaeologists. We wrote a letter of Support for Dr. Tanya Peres for obtaining a grant for a Florida dig which is

currently ongoing. We have also been invited to Florida to witness the results of the dig once complete.

Dr. Rochelle Marrinan from FSU came to our Louisiana village site with us to research our village and to take oral history, which is featured in the Aucilla Research Institute's documentary, "Three Hundred Years from Home".

We also were asked to speak at the Spanish Missions Borderland Conference in Monticello Florida which was put on by the ARI.

Our Chief was also interviewed for the show "History Detective" filmed at Mission San Luis.

We have been interviewed and photographed for a display at the Smithsonian Institute. The Institute stated that we were the last known directly connected tribe to the Apalachee Indians of Florida.

We have been featured in the Wall Street Journal, The Tallahassee Democrat and many other publications as well as a Florida school book.

Our Councilman, Chief and tribal members were a part of a Catholic documentary made by Michael O'Neill, the "Miracle Hunter" airing on EWTN.

Community Chief, Alex Torres Tall spoke for our tribe at the Canonization ceremony for Apalachee Antonio Cuipa and Companions. The status of possible Sainthood for Apalachee Antonio Cuipa is currently at the Vatican for consideration.

The state of Florida offered for us to assimilate with the Seminole to expand gaming in the Panhandle. The leadership of the tribe rejected the offer.

The state of Florida hired an expert to come to Louisiana to review our federal petition to see what was wrong; why it didn't go through. It was determined that it was political.

Recently, we were a part of a symposium at the University of Miami hosted by Dr. Viviana Diaz-Balsera and Jerald T. Milanich, Keynote speaker. We spoke about our past and current issues within the state of Louisiana. One of the best things to come out of the symposium is the discovery of documents with the Apalachee language and we will soon be bringing our language back to life. We were there at the expense of the University of Miami. Our Chief was rewarded with an honorarium for his lecture.

On YouTube, when searching Talimali Band Apalachee Indians you can find Dr. Kimberly Borchard spoke about the Apalachee and specifically about our tribe in her lecture "Recovering History, Reclaiming the Present: The Apalachee Diaspora". This was at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. If you fast forward to approximately 51 minutes into the lecture, she talks about the current tribe.

We have a Community Chief located in Crowley, LA, who represents the Torres/Tall clan of over a hundred people. In Monroe, LA we have a Community Chief, Evelyn Blake Shirley representing the Vallery clan of about forty people. Libuse, Louisiana (or close proximity), is

where many of our citizens live and our tribal office, land and cemetery are located. We have other tribal citizens sprinkled across the U.S.

Our tribe has a licensed land development company, an online store, and a museum. The museum is currently closed but has been open for several years. Hopefully it will be reopened soon.

Please visit us online at [talimaliband.com](http://talimaliband.com), there is a link to our Facebook and YouTube from our website.

Respectfully from: the citizens of the Talimali Band the Apalachee Indians of Louisiana