UCLA

The Indigenous Peoples' Journal of Law, Culture & Resistance

Title

Call to Arms

Permalink

https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0dv972kz

Journal

The Indigenous Peoples' Journal of Law, Culture & Resistance, 6(1)

ISSN

2575-4270

Author

Byrd, Joseph

Publication Date

2020

DOI

10.5070/P661051239

Copyright Information

Copyright 2020 by the author(s). All rights reserved unless otherwise indicated. Contact the author(s) for any necessary permissions. Learn more at https://escholarship.org/terms

CALL TO ARMS



Joseph Byrd*

Stop bombarding me with your guardian ideologies

This is not how it's supposed to be

You think we forgot about wounded knee

Been gimped up since the 7th cavalry decided to be heroes

And we turned them into zeroes

Gravity brings the American dream back down to reality

This is blood land

And your fracking is exposing contusions from broken treaties made long ago

With deceit and deception

Our conception of defeat transforms into victory songs

But we play to an empty auditorium

We still retain the will of our ancestors

Clearly you do as well

Tapping more wells

What happened to my country tis of thee

That's right, you stole our land and gave us cheese

Commanding and demanding we bend the knee

What about our civil liberties

Broken treaty after

Broken treaty after

Broken treaty

I'm here to end the cycle

Maybe even start a revolution

Call me crouching tiger hidden buffalo

I'm ready for a tomahawk execution

As we bear witness to your country implode

^{*} Joseph Tali Byrd earned his Juris Doctor from the University of New Mexico School of Law with a certificate in Indian Law. He holds a Masters of Jurisprudence in Indian Law from the University of Tulsa College of Law and a Bachelors of Science in Hospitality and Tourism Management from Northeastern State University. Upon graduating law school, Byrd was elected Chairman of the Quapaw Nation.

^{© 2020} Joseph Byrd. All rights reserved.

Am I starting to sound unpatriotic

Am I starting to make you feel uncomfortable

They say the tree of liberty must be refreshed

Time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants

What they won't tell you is that there is no tree

That's the bitter reality

George Washington cut it back when he chopped the cherry tree

Shout out to the full-bloods holding it down in Cherry Tree

White father, white father

Said you'd have our back

For as long as the green grass grows

And the blue rivers flow

Why bother, why bother

Home of the redman

Became home of the red land

Becomes home of the dead man

But dead men tell no tales

However, our story stretches a thousand millennia

And it will stretch a thousand more if I have anything to say about it

So whether you come from the water, the fire, or the stars

This is a call to my brothers and sisters in arms

Prepare yourselves because our time is now