



TRIBAL ALLIANCE AGAINST FRAUDS

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TAAF REPORT

Subject: Patricia Denise Marroquin-Norby

Sovereign Nations / identity falsely claimed: Nde, Apache, Eastern Apache, Purépecha, “Tarascan”

Determination: Zero American Indian ancestry found

Date: 5-25-24

TAAF has conducted our own independent investigation into Patricia Denise Marroquin-Norby, including our own genealogical research, which corroborates the findings of others who have also determined that Ms. Marroquin-Norby is Mexican American and not an American Indian from the United States or Mexico. We agree.

Ms. Marroquin-Norby is a non-American Indian person who has been shifting her ethnic identity for at least the past 14 years. She does this by falsely claiming to be an American-Indian person of one tribe or another. So far, she has falsely claimed to be Nde, Apache, Eastern Apache, “Tarascan” and Purépecha. She has based her slippery claims on a vague family myth she never bothered to verify, despite a vacation to Michoacán, Mexico, for the purpose of advancing her career. The boon to her career stems from the appearance that she possesses an American Indian perspective gained by supposedly having the lived experience of an American Indian person, by claiming to be Apache, and one that extends all the way to Mexico by claiming to be Purépecha. We have noted that Ms. Marroquin-Norby has begun to claim Purépecha more than Apache recently and this fits with the tactics mentioned above, especially with regard to advancing her career based on these false claims of “Indigeneity” that she is hoping no one can disprove.

It should be noted that “Tarascan” is, in fact, a pejorative exonym, referring to the Purépecha people. Purépecha people do not refer to themselves as “Tarascan”, which Ms. Marroquin-Norby would know if she were Purépecha. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pur%C3%A9pecha>

It is a common pretendian tactic, often referred to as “tribe-hopping”, to claim more than one tribe, to change claims as one’s claims are debunked, and to claim tribes or communities one believes will be difficult to disprove. Pretendians routinely have several family stories that shift and multiply as they are challenged, a tactic intended to deflect from the simple truth and to keep people constantly guessing. Many pretendians prefer to claim border tribes, such as the Mohawk or Yaqui, as a shield in their claims for verification.

Ms. Marroquin-Norby is clearly Mexican-American, as her genealogy proves. The Purépecha people come from Michoacán, Mexico, mainly in the area of the cities of Cherán and Pátzcuaro. The vacation Ms. Marroquin-Norby took to these places does not equate with belonging and recognition within one these communities. It is incumbent upon Ms. Marroquin-Norby to prove that she has any genuine kinship ties to a Purépecha community in Mexico. She has shown none to date. Also, the Purépecha people do not have things like “tribal rolls”, as Indians in the United States do. They rely on community kinship and belonging in their communities within living memory. For them to consider someone Purépecha, that person would have to be fluent in the Purépecha language. Ms. Marroquin-Norby most certainly meets neither of those embedded Indigenous expectations. Essentially, you must be born into one of those communities to be acknowledged as a Purépecha person. **They do not recognize distant ancestry or “descent”.**

Ms. Marroquin-Norby shows some genealogy from Jalisco, however, the Purépecha people have not lived in that area since the 16th century at the latest. So even if she had such an ancestor, which we haven't found, it would not make her Purépecha, it would make her a Mexican-American person with an ancient Purépecha ancestor.... Big difference. Also, the Christian baptismal records of Ms. Marroquin-Norby's family, such as those of Antonio Carillo and Maria Ysidora Gomez, further disintegrate her family myth because the Purépecha people were not Christianized, as a whole, and that was actually a point of pride for them.

We at TAAF are primarily concerned with American Indian people from the United States. The First Peoples of what are now known as Mexico, the United States and Canada were all racialized, marginalized, colonized and oppressed in very distinct ways by 3 distinct colonizer governments. TAAF deals with those in the United States. We will focus, going forward, on her Apache claims. That said, we can clearly see in her genealogy that she has zero “Indigenous” ancestry from any of the aforementioned First Peoples of either the United States or Mexico. So until she can prove otherwise, those claims are moot and certainly do not give her any Purépecha perspective, traditional knowledge or lived experience regarding anything.

The results of our investigation into her genealogy, which is all a matter of public record, can be found here: <https://tribalallianceagainstfrauds.org/patricia-marroquin-norby>

There are hundreds of documents that serve as hard evidence to back up the family tree you see. However, it would be very cumbersome to try to upload them all here, but they are available upon Ms. Marroquin-Norby's request, for a fee. We do have them all. And anyone can look them up for themselves, just as we did.

In the end, the burden of proof always lies with the person making the claim, not the other way around, yet we have shown that Ms. Marroquin-Norby is clearly not an American Indian woman. Being an American Indian is not about who you claim to be, but who claims you. Can Ms. Marroquin-Norby prove she has any ties to the historic Apache people? Does any legitimate Apache tribal nation claim her?

Ms. Marroquin-Norby's scholarship is foundationally flawed and academically dishonest as well. As everything she says or writes purports to be said or written by someone with an American Indian perspective, which she has never had and will never have.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York has failed the American Indian people whose cultures and ancestors it relies upon by not educating their employees sufficiently in order to ensure authenticity on every level. They need to be capable of doing their due diligence to properly vet the claims of prospective employees such as Ms. Marroquin-Norby, who will hold important positions that require relevant competencies and the ability to maintain trust in their relationships with American Indian communities. Lying about being one of us will not accomplish that. Avoiding compliance with NAGPRA laws will also do nothing to foster good relations with American Indian people. What DO museums give back to the American Indian people they owe so much of their financial success to? What are they doing to make amends for the years of abuse that most museums have inflicted upon American Indian communities in order to make a profit? Enabling pretendian fraud and everything that results in is adding to the problem, not working to make things better.

The Tribal Alliance Against Frauds would also like to know exactly what Ms. Marroquin-Norby's specific qualifications for this job include. We do not understand how she was even qualified to be offered this position in the first place.

It appears very dismissive of Ms. Marroquin-Norby's Mexican and Mexican-American ancestors for her to ignore all of their sacrifice, success, and beautiful proud Mexican heritage by falsely claiming American Indian ancestors who do not exist among her actual ancestors.

We'd like to note that that is not an isolated complaint. This issue has been a poorly kept "secret" that many all across Indian country have questioned since her appointment to the Met. It is time to drag it into the light of day and expose it for what it is: fraud. We thank all the brave whistleblowers who have brought this to our attention and the attention of other watchdogs as well. Thank you ALL for your courage and dedication to American Indian sovereignty and the honesty, authenticity and due diligence we expect of organizations like the Met, whom we expect to see doing better going forward.

Our determination: Ms. Patricia Denise Marroquin-Norby is a pretendian FRAUD.

And the Metropolitan Museum of Art needs to do much better going forward. They have earned a FAILING GRADE as an institution on their allyship report card from TAAF.