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Cape & Islands News

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Marshall pleads guilty to campaign finance violations, fraud

12/15/08 · 3:23 pm :: posted by [Jim Kinsella](#)

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Former Wampanoag Tribal Council chairman faces 5 criminal counts

- *Admits to organizing illegal contributions to members of Congress*
- *Filed false tax returns for himself, Mashpee Wampanoag tribe*
- *Siphoned \$380,000 for his own use, including groceries, vacations, jewelry*

By James Kinsella

Glenn A. Marshall, the former chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, has pleaded guilty to violations of campaign finance law, along with tax, wire fraud and Social Security fraud in connection with efforts to gain federal recognition for the tribe.

Marshall signed the plea agreement Thursday. Charges were filed against him today in U.S. District Court in Boston.

The former leader of the tribe, which achieved its long-sought federal recognition during his tenure, admitted to illegally steering campaign contributions to federal legislators; filing false tax returns on behalf of himself and the tribe; and fraudulently receiving Social Security disability benefits.

Marshall, 59, also used about \$380,000 in money provided by a Detroit company backing the tribe's drive for federal recognition for personal expenses, including groceries, vacations and jewelry.

He was charged today in federal court in a five-count information in which he is alleged to have made illegal campaign contributions to members of Congress on behalf of the tribe, embezzled funds from the tribe, filed false tax returns for himself and the tribe and fraudulently received Social Security disability benefits.

Paula Peters reacts to news

Paula Peters of Mashpee, a tribal member whose 2004 candidacy for tribal council chairman was derailed by a last-minute maneuver by Marshall, said, "It is a sad day for the tribe, but it is a jumping-off point for tribal integrity to be restored."

Going forward, Peters said, it's crucial for the tribal leadership to be unimpeachable.

"We cannot have this kind of corrupt atmosphere," she said.

Committed offenses as chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council



Marshall, 59 shown here in happier days, also used about \$380,000 in money provided by a Detroit company backing the tribe's drive for federal recognition for personal expenses, including groceries, vacations and jewelry. Glenn Marshall also testified under oath during a 2004 House committee hearing that he was a survivor of the Battle of Khe Sanh during the Vietnam War in 1968.

The information alleges that Marshall committed the offenses in connection with his service from 2001 to 2007 as chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council, the tribe's governing body.

During his tenure, the government alleges, Marshall spearheaded the tribe's effort to become officially recognized by the federal government, which would qualify the tribe for an array of federal program benefits, and render it eligible under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to build a casino on its lands.

Beginning in 1999, according to the government, a Detroit, Mich.-based investment firm called AtMashpee LLC, provided the tribe millions of dollars for its operations and for legal, lobbying, and other professional services, in exchange for an equity stake in any casino the tribe might ultimately build.

Among other services, according to the information, the tribe's attorneys filed a lawsuit against the Department of the Interior to force department to act on the tribe's recognition petition, which the tribe claimed had been unduly delayed.

The tribe also hired lobbyists to make the tribe's case before members of Congress and their staffs in the hope that they would encourage the department to act favorably on the petition.

Unhappy with the apparent lack of progress by those lobbyists, Marshall got in touch with lobbyist Jack Abramhoff, who said he wanted to be paid directly by the tribe rather than by AtMashpee LLC.

Marshall got in touch with lobbyist Jack Abramhoff

Marshall, according to the information, had AtMashpee LLC steer about \$4 million into the Mashpee Fisherman's Association, a defunct corporation to which Marshall was a signatory, money then used by the tribal council for lobbying and legal services. According to the government, Marshall omitted the information from the tribe's tax returns.

Abramoff and other consultants further recommended that contributions be made to state and federal legislators to advance the tribe's case.

Marshall, the information states, was aware that federal law prohibited corporations, including the tribal council, from making contributions to federal campaigns.

To disguise that the tribal council was making contributions to federal campaigns, the information alleges, Marshall solicited various individuals to act as straw contributors, including members of his family and officers of the tribal council.

According to the information, Marshall asked the straw contributor to write a check to a candidate's reelection committee, insisting that the contribution was necessary to further the Tribe's recognition effort and promising the straw contributor that the tribal council would reimburse him or her for the contribution. Marshall allegedly also made straw contributions.

The government further alleges that Marshall caused the tribal council, through payments from the Fisherman's Association account, to reimburse straw contributors a total of \$49,950 in federal campaign contributions, and another \$10,550 in straw contributions to elected state officials.

The government further alleges that Marshall used about

Beginning in 1999, according to the government, a Detroit, Mich.-based investment firm called AtMashpee LLC, provided the tribe millions of dollars for its operations and for legal, lobbying, and other professional services, in exchange for an equity stake in any casino the tribe might ultimately build.

In order to circumvent Federal election laws Marshall solicited various individuals to act as straw contributors, including members of his family and officers of the tribal council.

\$380,000 in funds in the Fisherman's Association account for personal expenses.

He allegedly spent the money on personal expenses as groceries, vacation trips, tuition payments for his daughter, restaurant tabs, home repairs, home mortgage payments and jewelry. According to the information, Marshall willfully failed to report these expenses as personal income on his tax returns.

If convicted on these charges, according to the government, Marshall faces up to 5 years imprisonment, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000, on each count, except on the charge of wire fraud, which carries a 20-year maximum sentence and a \$1 million fine.

Paula Peters said she isn't a candidate in the tribal elections, scheduled for Feb. 8, though her husband, Mark Harding, is running for treasurer.

"This will be a critical opportunity to elect some fiscally responsible candidates to office," Peters said.

Peters — whose father, the late Russell Peters, led the tribe's initial quest to regain its historic lands in Mashpee and for federal recognition — said that "this is a critical time for us in the development of our sovereign nation and its economic development initiatives."

"Going forward, we have a big opportunity to repair whatever damage has been done," she said.

- ▶ *Read the federal charges [here](#).*
- ▶ *Read the plea agreement [here](#).*
- ▶ *Read the news release [here](#).*



"This will be a critical opportunity to elect some fiscally responsible candidates to office." - Paula Peters on right at the Wampanoag homestead in Plimoth Plantation.

3 comments

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maryclements [Member] writes:

12/15/08 @ 7:49 pm

Glenn Marshall again? Marshall was featured in Maria Flook's "Invisible Eden: A Tale of Love and Murder on Cape Cod". Of course author and sexpal Mike O'Keefe had no idea Christa Worthington was the victim of a rape. Go figure! Marshall is noted to be at a fundraising ball for the Wampanoags attended not only by Flook and O'Keefe, but also Senator Robert O'Leary. As you know, both of these classy figures are now claiming that they have the homeless situation in Hyannis under control. Meanwhile, they are accepting campaign contributions from a known rapist.

Glenn Marshall not only had a rape record, Christopher McCowan was known to the homeless shelter properties and adjacent associated properties.

Are we sure O'Keefe and O'Leary are hobknobbing with the "right kind of folks"?

Whatever happened to public safety first?

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Peter Kenney [Member] writes:

12/15/08 @ 7:50 pm

Now comes the fall of the mighty. Glenn Marshall is a well known coward. He himself admits to having worked undercover for various police agencies. Translation: he gave up others to avoid charges and jail for himself? Anyone who expects Marshall to go down alone is not thinking rationally.

In my opinion he will spend long hours talking to federal authorities about who else was involved in his illegal activities. According both to the charges and to his statements he has already identified others as being complicit in his activities. How has he survived without income for the time since he resigned as tribal council chairman? What does Gail Andrews know about all this? Has someone in the tribe been funneling him money? What will happen to Herb Strather and Lawyer Bill? What about the Maushop Farm scam?

The tribe deserves answers....and they deserve better from their own leaders. What did Shawn and others know?

Anyone else who was involved should wonder, how far will Marshall go to protect his own hide? The answer is scary, for them. Merry Christmas, Amelia.

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Buzz [Member] writes:

12/15/08 @ 8:51 pm

So if Glenn squeals, who are the feds looking to bring down? More tribal members or bigger fish... the investor types?

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