



THE

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MVSKOKE NEWS

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SAFETEA ACT ALLOWS EPA TO ATTACK TRIBAL RIGHTS TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY TRAMPLED BY EPA, BIG OIL AND SENATOR INHOFE'S 2005 RIDER

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), an independent executive agency of the United States federal government, used U.S. Senator Inhofe's 2005 SAFETEA Act as a tool to assert the State of Oklahoma will have regulatory control over environmental issues on tribal lands in the state on Oct. 1.

Through a letter to Gov. Kevin Stitt the EPA announces that it approved the State of Oklahoma's request to 'administer in certain areas of Indian country the States environmental regulatory programs that were previously approved by the EPA.'

The decision to grant the State control of environmental issues came after a July 22, request from Stitt (Cherokee).

The Governor's request asked the EPA to grant Oklahoma jurisdiction over reg-

ulation of fossil fuels. Various donors have contributed \$230,000 to the Stitt campaign according to www.followthemoney.org

MCN Principal Chief David Hill called the Governor's tactics, "A swift move meant to circumvent the appropriate time and available information to adequately respond."

"The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is disappointed in the decision of the EPA to grant Governor Stitt's request to administer environmental regulation in certain areas of Indian Country under the SAFETEA Act of 2005," Chief Hill said. "The Muscogee (Creek) Nation acted swiftly, submitting a request for tribal consultation just two days after the Governors request."

"The MCN will continue seeking to remedy the situation."

The Muscogee (Creek) leader was not alone in his disappointment in the EPA. Cherokee Nation Principal



Pictured is EPA Administrator Adam Wheeler, who announced the EPA decision to grant the State of Oklahoma regulatory control of Native American tribal lands. (Photo courtesy of US Environmental Protection Agency)

Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. issued a similar statement condemning the decision as a knee-jerk reaction.

"Unfortunately, the governor's decision to invoke a 2005 federal law ignores the longstanding relationship between state agencies and the Cherokee Nation," Chief Hoskins said. "It's disappointing the Cherokee Nation's request that the EPA thoughtfully consult with Oklahoma tribes on this delegation request was ignored."

'All Oklahomans benefit when the Tribes and state work together in the spirit of mutual respect and this knee-jerk reaction to curtail tribal jurisdiction is not productive.'

The National Congress of American Indians has publicly condemned all legislation that diminishes the sovereignty, jurisdiction or treaty rights of tribal nations that are affirmed in the United States Constitution, statutes, and judicial opinions such as the McGirt SCOTUS decision.

In the EPA's response to the Governors request, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler confirmed many

Clean Air, Clean Water, and Drinking Water Acts will be under the state's oversight. It removes oversight of environmental issues for the 38 federally recognized tribes of Oklahoma.

This decision means that tribes wanting to apply for regulatory oversight of these environmental programs must do so with the State of Oklahoma according to the EPA.

The only exceptions to this environmental oversight by the state would be similar to the scope of tribal authority before the USSC reaffirmed reservation status for the MCN. The agreement will benefit fossil fuel companies and commercial agricultural operations.

The EPA based its conclusions on the mandate in a 2005-midnight rider maneuvered into transportation by Sen. James Inhofe. While the MCN Principal Chief has publicly said the tribe will seek remedy, there is no word yet on what the next step is for the MCN.

CHEROKEE PHOENIX ASSISTANT EDITOR TO SERVE ON BOARD

TRAVIS SNELL FILLS THE FINAL SEAT TO COMPLETE THE MVSKOKE MEDIA EDITORIAL BOARD

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—The Mvskoke Media's Editorial Board selection has now been completed with all three members being chosen.

Those being placed onto the Mvskoke Media board are Principal Chief David Hill's pick of Rebecca Landsberry; MCN National Council pick of Spencer Torbett; and the third member Travis Snell was chosen by Landsberry and Torbett combined.

Snell is a Cherokee citizen, who grew up in Delaware County in Kansas, OK where he graduated high school. He attended Oklahoma City University receiving his bachelor's degree in Mass Communications, with an emphasis in print.

"I worked at the Grove Sun Daily in Northern Delaware County after I graduated for about six months," Snell said. "Then I was transferred to its weekly paper, Delaware County Journal for about four or five months before joining the Cherokee Phoenix."

Snell joined the Cherokee Phoenix in November 2000, when he started out as a staff writer. According to Cherokee Phoenix website, he won numerous awards from the Native American Journalists Association and the Richard LaCourse Award in 2003 for best investigative story. Now Snell is the assistant editor for the Cherokee Phoenix.

Snell was selected by Landsberry and Torbett and he will serve one-year on the



Cherokee Phoenix Assistant Editor Travis Snell will be sitting on the Editorial Board for one year. (Submission)

board. Snell previously served on the Editorial Board before it was eliminated under the old free press act when he served as the President of the board.

"I want to make sure Mvskoke Media has editorial policy that is fair and balanced to everyone," Snell stated about his goal for Mvskoke Media. "Also provides accurate news, and basically operate as a news gathering source and present it properly to its citizens."

Snell also added their goal for Mvskoke Media should be to hire someone in the Director's job that handles the day-to-day operations properly.

"I was happy to serve again," Snell said about being selected to serve. "I had fun the first time until the eliminations of the free press act. I really felt honored to be asked to serve again."

SNELL-2

EXPANSIONS NEEDED FOR TRIBAL COURTS

INCREASED CASELOADS AND THE COVID RESTRICTIONS SLOW SOME JUDICIAL PROCESSES

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — MCN District courts will be expanding capacity in the wake of the SCOTUS decision reaffirming the tribe's jurisdictional boundaries. MCN District Court Judge Greg Bigler has reported a significant increase in caseload over the past ten weeks.

The MCN Justice department according to MCN District Court Judge Greg Bigler closely watched the decision and for good reason. It had the potential to mean more cases for the tribe's justice system.

"When we were waiting for that decision, we were nervous," Bigler said. "The court was suspected to be closely decided, so when it came out, we were very excited that Gorsuch had written the opinion."

Bigler said that Gorsuch was supportive when he was on the bench in Denver.

"When he was being appointed many Indian organizations were in support of Gorsuch's appointment."

The SCOTUS opinion was widely celebrated in Indigenous communities across the U.S.

"The decision was a very strong statement supportive of treaties," Bigler said. "That is a positive for all Indian nations."

Bigler said that this was one of the instances where you have to be careful what you wish for.

"It is a lot more work but we are very excited for it," Bigler said. "From the first of the year up until the decision we had about 16 felony cases filed."

"Since then we have had almost 240 total cases."

Bigler said that some of these cases might include more than one charge in the case.



Pictured is MCN District Court Judge Bigler. (MN File Photo)

For instance, if a person were accused of possessing a controlled substance and assault, those would be separate charges but included in the same case.

Bigler said that those are not all new cases; many of those have been shifted to tribal courts.

"It will continue to be more than what we use to see, but once they are processed there will be a taper off," Bigler said. "We have these cases that being sent to our courts, and that falls a lot on the clerks."

"We are going to need more clerks and we are trying to advertise and get those positions staffed."

Bigler said that the courts are now in processing and have not gotten to the motions and jury stages of these processes. One of the needs of the courts will be to physically expand the court.

Bigler said there is a need of an increase in attorneys, clerks, prosecutors and space.

"We will need a new court building and that is something that has been in the master plan," Bigler said. "It is moving very quickly to the top of the priority list."

"Everyday now we have anywhere from 5 to ten arraignments and we are seeing an increase with protective orders."

During this time ramped up of cases, the justice system is still having to deal with the health and safety issues associated with COVID-19.

He said that some of the ways that this is being handled, is to do as much remote hearings as possible.

"For our law enforcement, clerks, attorneys, and prosecutors to come down with COVID and need quarantine then all this could grind to a halt," Bigler said. "We have had some cases that are reached by plea agreement so those have completed."

"We will have health concerns for our jury pool, when the time comes."

Bigler said that all levels of government are pushing out jury trials in order to protect the staff and public. He also said that the tribe is looking to find solutions to implement those hearings through the jail.

"We are looking at remote

COURT-2

SNELL

Continued from Page 1

When Snell served on the board the first time, he wanted to see another newspaper in Indian Country with a free press act to make sure it was carried out properly. He has seen some editorial boards in the past who have people to serve political goals, and he did not want that to happen for Mvskoke Media.

Snell will be serving as the Mvskoke Media's Editorial Board Vice President.

COURT

Continued from Page 1

locations in various places that don't place the public in danger," Bigler said.

Bigler thinks that the important thing for everyone to remember is that the tribe has been around a long time and that the tribe once handled this duty.

"We have been around a very long time," Bigler said. "We handled justice in the 1850's, 60's and 70's, and we can do it again."

COMMISSION URGENTLY WORKING ON TRIBAL LAWS

TRIBAL SECRETARY SAYS THAT THE IMMEDIACY OF NEED FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA CLARIFICATION IS A PRIORITY FOR THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

Angel Ellis

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — While the SCOTUS decision reaffirming the existence of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation reservation provided the "ultimately clarity" according to MCN Press Secretary Jason Salsman there is much work being considered in outlining specific codes of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

"There is uncertainty but this not sky is falling," Salsman said. "It's an opportunity, it's a chance to get it right and make it better."

While U.S. Attorney General William Barr was visiting the Cherokee Nation Salsman said that MCN has been working on issues like getting DOJ aid funding for US Attorneys offices, tribal law enforcement and readying MCN code to administer justice in Indian Country.

"We are seeing a lot of new cases," Salsman said. "We knew it would be a lot of cases, they are working through it."

Salsman said that the instances of people being set loose are over blown.

"We need to get better communications to our people," Salsman said. "There is sometimes a break down on communication on who needs to be transported or transferred."

"We can't have a law enforcement agency respond and identify a person as native and just throw their hands up and not wait for Lighthorse to get there."

But social media has been rife with complaints from people saying those instances are happening.

Salsman said that one of the issues is training that it takes a bit more effort to vet people who may have tribal citizenship.

"There is a process and MCN attorney general said you have to do more than ask about citizenship, or just see a red tag and assume citizenship," Salsman said. "There are processes in place to switch courts."

"The notion of total lawless-

ness is simply not true."

Salsman thinks that the beginning data has some issues, because the numbers in the beginning include cases older than the McGirt decision.

"No one covering the news is talking about the fact that these cases have been done wrong for 100 years," Salsman said. "And with the snap of a finger there is no way that you can bolster departments and budgets on a conditional decision."

"That is why you see the tribe doing things in increments, you saw the tribe kick in \$2M from its own budget."

He said that money combined with \$500 to the MCN Attorney Generals department and grants from the DOJ are what it takes to get the system where it needs to be.

"It has to be done incrementally," Salsman said. "That is why the MCN Protection Commission was formed and why they are looking letter for letter through tribal code."

He said commission would be focused on closing gaps in tribal code and making sure that the laws line up to be comparable to those in other courts. As things stand there are some instances were federal code, state and tribal codes leave grey area.

"That's because for a very long time, some of the things done by the federal government have prevented tribal courts from properly punishing and sentencing in Indian Country," Salsman said. "That isn't an easy fix."

One example of the gaps in code is the medical marijuana questions.

"We have one of the top medical marijuana attorneys in the state is on the commission," Salsman said. "Those are things that aren't lost on the MCN, we have citizens running grow operations and use it as medicine."

"So, there is a committee dedicated to that question and it is a high priority."

Salsman said there is not a clear answer but it is a question that is being worked on to get clarity.

NATIONAL COUNCIL PASSES LEGISLATION REGARDING MOUNDVILLE

MOUNDVILLE IS AN HISTORICAL SITE FOR THE MUSCOGEE PEOPLE

Morgan Taylor

REPORTER

MOUNDVILLE, Alabama — Legislation has recently passed in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council that called for the restoration and protection of the historical mounds of Moundville located near the Black Warrior River in AL.

The University of Alabama owns the historical site Moundville that has cultural ties to Native American heritage, particularly those Muskogean speaking tribes and not limited to the MCN.

MCN Historical and Cultural Preservation Department Archaeological Technician Turner Hunt and MCN Historical and Cultural Preservation Department Tribal Archaeologist LeeAnne Wendt have been an active part of the ongoing project.

According to Hunt, archaeologist who have studied Moundville have traced the Muskogean people starting in the year 1450.

"Unfortunately, erosion has taken a toll across this very important historical site," Wendt said. "One cause of this erosion is due to the farming practices of the 19th and 20th centuries. The soil at Moundville is great for agricultural use and drainage but due to the lack of clay content of the soils causes it to be unstable there. If you think about it farming in the area for over 100 years can cause those soils to erode even more heavily."

In 1938, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) began an erosion control program at Moundville.

"As you can see, we are still dealing with this erosion even though there's not any farming



View of Mound B located at historical site Moundville.

(Submission)

practices the erosion is still going on, so this is only one cause and there is another cause too," Wendt said.

The Black Warrior River has a natural horseshoe bend where Moundville is located on the river.

"On any kind of river where you have a horseshoe bend, you'll have an erosion side and a deposit side," Hunt explains. "It happens to be that Moundville is on the erosion side of the river. So, as it naturally flows through it will erode the riverbank."

"There is an argument to be made that kind of changes things," Hunt said. "We have seen Hurricane Laura pass through massive amounts of rain through the area and that rain has to go somewhere, it runs off the river dwell and makes the situation worse."

As erosion has occurred, human remains, and artifacts have been discovered over the 300-acre area.

"In its later life, Moundville was a cemetery," Hunt said. "People would return from all over and use it as a cemetery so its multiple levels of cultural significance for us."

"This is why we are so invested in the project and why they have

to be careful doing this work," Wendt said. "They have found human remains, cultural artifacts across that site, thousands of burials have been found out there. There is always the probability they will find human remains or artifacts."

TR 20-159 allows the Principal Chief to execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, the Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding the Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection Project Tuscaloosa, AL.

"A MOA is a legally binding document between state, federal and tribal partners," Hunt said. "In this case a MOA is necessary for work to begin because there is an adverse impact of the project. This will ensure that all stipulations set forth are followed."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the lead federal entity on the project. The MCN has requested weekly reports, as stated in the legislation. The legislation was passed in the National Council meeting on Sept 26. Mvskoke Media plans to report on the project as it proceeds.

GRANT MONEY CONSIDERED IN JOINT SESSION

TRIBAL JUSTICE, HEALTH AND EXECUTIVE OFFICES COULD SEE HIGHER SECURITY WITH THE APPROVAL OF GRANT FUNDS.

Angel Ellis

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Joint Business, Finance and Justice and Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held Sept. 22 at the National Council Chambers.

All passed legislation went before the full Council during the regular session on Sept 26.

The joint committee addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

NCA 20-069 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Authorizing the Expenditure of the U.S. Department of



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Joint Business, Justice, and Finance and Health, Education and Welfare meeting was held on Sept. 22 in the National Council Chambers. (MN File Photo)

Homeland Security FY 2020 Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program for the Benefit of the Department of Health and Lighthorse Police Department. (\$845,940) Sponsored by Robert Hufft.

The legislation will allow \$845,940 in grant funds to go to MCN Department of Health and MCN Lighthorse Police Department. The grant funds were awarded from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program.

The grant funds will be used for the Department of Health to enhance cyber security to protect patient health records from internal and external threats. MCNDOH will receive \$590,941.

The remaining \$254,999 will be used for Lighthorse to purchase a CCTV Camera system with seventy-five cameras for installation through the Nation's Complex. Six metal detectors will be installed throughout the MCN District Court, Lighthorse, and Executive Offices.

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call: 918-732-7720 or email: info@mvsokemedia.com.

NSU INTERNSHIP PROGRAM SEEKS AGREEMENT WITH MVSKOKE NATION YOUTH SERVICES

MCN PAGEANT MAY FALL UNDER MVSKOKE NATION YOUTH SERVICES

Lani Hansen

SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held Oct. 14.

All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session Oct. 31.

HEW addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 20-163 To execute a memorandum agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Northeastern State University for the Mvskoke Nation Youth Services. Sponsored by Rep. James Jennings.

The agreement is an internship through Mvskoke Nation Youth Services, with Chief's signature and will also allow other departments to provide internships with NSU. Passed 4-0.

TR 20-164 To execute a social work field practicum memorandum of understanding between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Northeastern State University for the Mvskoke Nation Youth Services. Sponsored by Rep. Jennings.

In regards of legislation TR 20-163, this is the signature of agreement. Passed 4-0.

TR 20-165 Approving the United States Department of Health and Human Services terms and conditions for the Tribal Opioid Response grant. Sponsored by Rep. Anna Marshall, Co-sponsored by Rep. Mary Crawford and Rep. Joyce Deere.

The legislation is a continuation of the Tribal Opioid Response grant. Passed 4-0.

TR 20-166 Confirming the nomination of Blue Clark to serve on the College of the Muscogee Nation Board of Regents. Sponsored by Rep. Jennings.

The nomination of Blue Clark will be on Pre-agenda Oct. 31, interview will go before full council. Passed 4-0.

TR 20-168 Confirming the nomination of Shawn Partridge to serve as the Secretary of Community and Human Services of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by Rep. Randall Hicks.

The nomination of Shawn Partridge will be on Pre-agenda on Oct. 31, interview will go before council. Passed 4-0.

NCA 20-072 Authorizing the expenditure of Tribal Opioid Response funds awarded from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Sponsored by Rep. Marshall, Co-sponsored by Rep. Crawford and Rep. Deere.

The primary expense pays the doctor in charge of the addiction program and is keeping the clinic open. Passed 4-0.

NCA 20-073 Amending MCNCA Title 37, subscription 2-119 entitled, "Mvskoke (Creek) Nation Pageant and Royalty." Sponsored by Rep. Marshall.

The legislation is to have the pageant fall under Mvskoke Nation Youth Services instead of Public Relations. Passed 4-0.

NCA 20-082 Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Education for the benefit of the Department of Education. Sponsored by Rep. Lucian Tiger III.

The grant is through the Office of Indian Education, to support the community efforts to improve educational choice and outcomes for Native students within the jurisdiction. Passed 4-0.

For audio of committee meetings visit www.mcnc.com

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS, TRIBAL COURT, PUBLIC "RESERVATION", ICE CREAM NAME MELTS

VIRUS PROTECTIONS, BUSY TRIBAL COURT, VIRTUAL POW-WOWS, CHIEF'S HONOR

Gary Fife

Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma —The health challenges from the Covid-19 virus are still with us and are keeping our Health Department busy. But on top that, the annual flu season is already making some Mvskoke ill. That's something that never should be taken for granted and vaccinations are available.

But the situation is complicated with both viruses active. So, more common sense should prevail here. Folks should be following health precautions that have been publicized.

A recent interview on Mvskoke Radio with Muscogee District Court Judge Greg Bigler presented a capsule look at the situation at the tribal court after the McGirt decision. Fears that the court would be overwhelmed with a flood of cases has not happened, although he said they are busier as local jurisdictions send them cases of crimes that have occurred on reservation



(MN File Photo)

lands. They are busier, so those having to appear in court could reasonably expect some extra time to get the legal cases finished. Maybe not?

For the first time I heard the phrase: "Reservation" used in a public address in reference to Mvskoke lands. During the recent observance of Indigenous Day here in Okmulgee, National Council Representative Will Lowe used "reservation" in his speech for the celebration. Although it is perhaps not a monumental moment, it did strike me as an important occurrence and it gave me a sense of pride. I think it fits very nicely. Mvto, Will.

In a ruling by a McClain



The Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation committee meeting held via teleconference. (MN File Photo)

EMERGENCY ELDERLY HOUSING APPROVED

UPCOMING PROJECTS FOR THE MCN DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PASS THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON OCT 13

Morgan Taylor

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held Oct.13 via teleconference.

All passed legislation is subject to the full council approval during the regular session.

LNC addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 20-170 Resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a non-NAGPRA Funerary objects transfer agreement with Tennessee Valley Authority, a corporate agency and instrumentality of the United States of America, for the transfer of custody of non-NAGPRA Funerary Objects to the MCN. Sponsored by Rep. Charles McHenry. Motion, do pass. 4-0.

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) currently possesses certain non-NAGPRA Funerary Objects and intends to transfer said objects to the MCN. The Transfer Agreement will allow the MCN to take possession of the Funerary Objects.

TR 20-172 Resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract with McQuay Construction, LLC for the construction of a secondary retaining wall and fencing at the Lvmhe Rental Property in Eufaula, OK. Sponsored by Rep. McHenry. Motion do pass. 4-0.

The MCN Department of Housing is requesting approval of a contract with McQuay Construction, LLC to construct a secondary retaining wall and fencing. The contract is \$324,534.00.

TR 20-173 Resolution adopting a maintenance policy for Department of Housing NAHASDA Programs. Spon-

sored by Rep. Thomasene Yahola Osborn. Motion do pass. 3-1. Rep. Joseph Hicks voted against the resolution.

The NAHASDA states that each recipient (MCN) shall develop a policy governing the maintenance of housing assisted with IHBG Grant Funds. The Maintenance Policy will provide decent, safe, and healthy environment for homebuyers/residents residing in MCN housing units.

TR 20-175 Resolution authorizing the construction of MCN Tiny Home Village/Elderly Emergency Housing in Okmulgee, OK. Sponsored by Rep. Osborn. Motion do pass. 4-0.

The MCN desires to provide safe and reliable housing for elderly homeless citizens. The MCN plans to construct a Tiny Home Village/Elderly Emergency Housing on the tribal complex near the current elderly housing residences. This will include four 240 square foot housing units funded by CARES Act Funding.

NCA 20-079 Law amending NCA 13-316 (A Law of the MCN creating a new MCNCA Title 28, Chapter 9 Entitled "Muscogee (Creek) Nation Natural Resource Conservation District" and appropriating said funds) as amended by NCA 16-021. Sponsored by Rep. Darrell Proctor. Motion to postpone indefinitely by Rep. Proctor, motion seconded by Rep. McHenry. Motion postponed indefinitely. 4-0.

The Amendment states the for Fiscal Year 2021, the Principal Chief is authorized to expend the sum of \$100,000.00 from the tribal finds determined by the Controller and carry forward until fully expended and beginning Fiscal Year 2022 funding will return as mentioned above (NCA 13-316).

All MCN National Council agendas and meetings can be viewed at www.mcnc.com

County District Court, a death row inmate should have been tried in a Chickasaw Nation court, saying the Congress never disestablished their reservation. The Oklahoman reported other tribes are in a similar situation. As expected, there will be continuing legal battles to settle that question.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the Presidential election is over and we'll see who and how they will be leading this country. You make your own decisions on that outcome. I'm just glad the darn thing is over and much of the bitterness and division will be reduced. Hopefully. If not, then it shows the deeper problems this country has.

With the Fall season here, it marks the end of what's generally known as the summer pow-wow season. But with the COVID virus affecting large groups, many of those major

events were cancelled. Even many of the smaller tribal pow-wows were cancelled.

But Native people can find ways to overcome such challenges. Like many other events around the country, they have gone 'virtual.' An article in Cronkite News reported that Tiny Rosales of the Anishinaabe created a Facebook site called, "Quarantine Dance Specials 2020."

To participate, dancers put on their regalia and performed before a video camera, identifying the pow-wow they would participate in and submit their video. Another way Native people have blended our culture and modern technology. Although not a pow-wow, Rosales said it gives Natives a chance to don regalia and dance. How 'bout a virtual '49'? Ay.

Here's an update on one annoying name that has gone: CNN reported that the popu-

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

STATION BEING

BUILT AT COMPLEX

MCN WILL INTRODUCE THE FIRST ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION ON THE RESERVATION

Morgan Taylor

REPORTER



The Electric Vehicle Charging Station is located directly in front of the MCN VASO office at the main entrance of the MCN Complex. (Morgan Taylor)

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is in the process of building an electric vehicle (EV) charging station located on the complex right off Highway 52, the Loop.

According to MCN Environmental Services Director James Williams, the funding for this came from a grant from Volkswagen to promote the use of electric vehicles.

"This is made possible by the Volkswagen settlement for the tribes and part of this agreement was that we put in an electric charging station," Williams said. "We plan on putting two more charging stations but we are just not sure of the locations just yet."

The hopes are to promote the use of electric by the tribe, tribal citizens, and the community in general.

"We are looking to provide electric vehicle charging to employees and those who visit the complex," Williams said. "We know that electric cars are the wave of the future and we actually have two or three here at the complex."

The service will be free for MCN citizens and employees.

"Electric cars are becoming more affordable," Williams said. "There is no gas or motor and the only thing you have to change is probably just your tires. They are pretty low maintenance and very efficient. They just need to be charged and can go for about 300 or 400 miles and just charge it back up."

The MCN Environmental Services currently owns a Nissan Leaf that is a few years old and cost roughly \$20,000 new according to Williams.

"We have been trying to promote this at the tribe for a number of years and I think it's finally going to take off," Williams said. "We are expecting this project to be done by early November."

lar ice cream bar Eskimo Pie will be renamed, "Edy's Pie." That change will occur in early 2021. Thank you, Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream. Another one bites the dust.

Hey, Eskimo Joe's, paying attention? How about Edy Joe's?

Here's some great news: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill has been named to Time magazine's Top 100 Most Influential People of 2020. Hill received the honor after he and the Nation took the McGirt case to the U.S. Supreme Court and 'Mvskoke Nation takes the lead. Other tribes are following.

'senhonecke (awesome)!

Enjoy the upcoming holiday, eat lots of penwv (turkey) and learn about the true history of that holiday and the Wampanoag people.

Hvtvm checares. See you again.



MVSKOKE MEDIA WINS NAJA AWARDS INCLUDING FREE PRESS AWARD DEPARTMENT BRINGS HOME MORE AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING TALENT

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma- The Native American Journalists Association announced the winners of the 2020 National Native Media Awards.

More than 250 awards are presented recognizing the best coverage of Indian Country. The annual competition recognizes excellence in reporting by Indigenous and non-Indigenous journalists from across the U.S. and Canada, according to NAJA newsroom.

Staff of the Mvskoke Media received a total of eight awards including the 2020 NAJA Elias Boudinot Free Press Award. The Elias Boudinot Free Press award is named for the first editor of the Cherokee Phoenix, the award recognizes a publication or media outlet that has shown dedication and commitment for freedom of the press.

"Mvskoke Media receiving the Elias Boudinot for a second time is a testament to the dedicated staff, the support of Mvskoke people who demand press freedom, and our leaders who have committed to upholding a high level of transparency for the cit-



Pictured above are two of the several awards won by Mvskoke Media in 2019.

(Lani Hansen)

izens they serve," Reporter Angel Ellis said. "The fact we had to do it twice, means that the thread upholding the standard of transparency is tenuous, and we have work to do to ensure the voices of Indian Country always have a platform."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NAJA has postponed the

2020 National Native Media Conference until Sept. 15-19, 2021 in Phoenix. In response they presented the awards virtually this year which was on Oct. 15. This year the department was recognized with one first-place, three second-place and four third-place awards.

Reporter Angel Ellis and

Multi-media Specialist Jerrad Moore won two awards. First place in television general excellence for their presentation 'Muscoogee (Creek) Nation Election Coverage.' Second place in best multimedia for their presentation 'Christmas at Ryal Schools.'

Graphic Designer Mark Hill won third place in best layout for

print. Reporter Angel Ellis won three awards. Second place in excellence in beat reporting for her article 'The Bruner Case.' Third place in excellence in beat reporting for her article 'Former Chief Pleads Guilty- Justice Beat.' Third place in best feature story for her article 'Legislation supports students culture in academic ceremony.'

"It's always special to be recognized among such a prestigious class of Indigenous talent," Ellis said. "It's a tough competition, but I was very grateful to have my work with video recognized since it is a new skill I have been working on."

Radio Specialist Gary Fife won third place in best multimedia for his presentation on 'An Interview with Poet Laureate: Joy Harjo.'

Ellis who won three awards said, "I'm so very proud to see my colleagues place and bring home awards. It has been a tough year but I work with some of the best Indigenous journalists in the industry."

Mvskoke Media received second place in general excellence, including the Elias Boudinot Award.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN TEACHES SELF TO BEAD BY HAND

AUBREY FRYE A SELF-TAUGHT BEADER ENJOYS SELLING HER CREATIONS

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma- Aubrey Frye is a Muscoogee (Creek) citizen and local bead artist. Frye uses her ability to weave small beads together to create jewelry and accessories in the form of Native American handmade beadwork.

Frye was introduced to beading two years ago by a former co-worker who had invited Frye to Facebook groups where people share various beadwork tips and tutorials.

"I bought my first set of needles, seed beads and loom from Walmart the very next day," Frye said.

Through lots of trial and error, Frye taught herself to bead with the help of tutorials on Facebook and YouTube.

"It was difficult when I started," Frye said. "Each style, stitch has its own challenges. I have torn apart and restarted more projects that I can count."

The most popular items that Frye creates are badge reels and earrings. The prices can range from \$15 to \$40 depending on the style, size, and quality of the materials used. She also makes other jewelry items too like necklaces, bracelets, hair accessories, stickers, and other miscellaneous items. On occasion, when life is not so busy Frye will make custom pieces, but for the most part she sticks to her regular pieces.

Frye has a primary, full time job as well as a daughter. Beading is something of a hobby for her. It has become somewhat therapeutic for her after a long workweek.

"I will start by sketching my idea on paper. From there, I will add a color palette or vice versa. Beadwork is my way to de-stress after a long week," Frye said. "I love being able to create the little ideas that pop into my head and make something beautiful."

Frye's posts and updates followers on new projects and takes orders for her beadwork creations through her social media sites as well as her Etsy shop.

Frye is also entering into more projects and they can be viewed by following Aubrey Frye on social media.



Frye's custom piece for MMIW researcher Abigail Echo-Hawk, was made into a sticker which is sold by Frye. (Submission)

MISS MCN 2019-2020 HANGS UP HER CROWN

OUTGOING MISS MCN MIKAYLA BUCKLEY SHARES ROYALTY EXPERIENCE

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma- Mvskoke Media continues the series of "Former MCN Princesses: Where are they now?" with series ten featuring Mikayla Buckley. Buckley served as Miss Muscoogee (Creek) Nation 2019-2020.

"The pageant experience was incredible. I didn't get to talk to the girls around pageant time because we were all nervous," Buckley said. "But the day of the pageant we got closer and were helping each other out after the interviews."

The night of the pageant she remembers it was hectic, but said her and the other girls were supporting each other and keeping each other calm during the pageant. Buckley enjoyed being around the other contestants, and seeing what they brought to the competition.

The Miss MCN pageant was the first time Buckley ran for the title, but it was her second pageant experience. When her name was announced as the winner, it did not process until she realized everyone was looking at her.

"I thought 'oh they called my name' so I stepped out and



Mikayla Buckley served as Miss Muscoogee (Creek) Nation 2019-2020. (Submission)

started waving and smiling," Buckley stated. "I was in complete shock even after everything slowed down and I was going home. It really didn't process until several months later."

During her reign, Buckley spoke at many events and traveled. Her first event was the Elders Game, where she mingled within the crowd and met people. Some of the other events she would introduce herself, sing

a hymn or sign the Lord's Prayer.

As the princess, Buckley did some traveling but she really enjoyed going to California for the At-large community event and to Florida for the UNITY Conference. In California she was able to meet the citizens who lived out there, and at UNITY which is a conference for youth councils she seen other Native tribes and met their royalty.

"I was able to go to UNITY as princess and youth council member," Buckley said.

When Buckley ran for Miss MCN, she had just graduated from high school. During her reign, she was attending Oral Roberts University studying Business Administration. Now that her reign is over, she is a current student at the College of Muscoogee Nation focusing on getting her Criminal Justice degree.

Buckley added as the outgoing Miss MCN, "it was a wonderful experience. I am really glad I was able to have this opportunity, and I just want other princesses to have the same experience as I did. Unfortunately, it was cut short, but the time I got to serve was great for me."

Stay tuned as we find out where the next former Miss Muscoogee (Creek) Nation is now.

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MCN CITIZEN PLACES IN ‘TRAIL OF TEARS ART SHOW

TRIBAL CITIZEN AND ARTIST LIVING ABROAD TAKES A DEEP HEALING APPROACH TO ART

Angel Ellis
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma —Muscogee (Creek) Citizen Melinda Schwakofer who lives and works on Dartmoor in the United Kingdom, was the only Mvskoke to make the final list of award-winning artists at the 49th Annual Trail of Tears Art show and sale. The annual art show is the longest-running American Indian art shows in Oklahoma.

In the diverse art form division Schwakofer placed second with her textile based “The Road to Oklahoma.” The piece is a 150cm x 183cm cotton and silk quilt featuring Mvskoke scrollwork, language, historical maps, documents and imagery. It was displayed in the show after a short delay due to COVID-19.

“It’s called road to Oklahoma for two reasons, it is an established quilt pattern done by settler women in the late 1800’s,” Schwakofer said. “As you visually look from left to right, I’ve got sun circles, containing maps, and photos.”

“Inside of each of those are significant symbols so there is this layered significance.”

Schwakofer said her work draws from her personal story, her family roots and her Muscogee ancestry. In it, she explores the intersection of the images carried of herself, how those formed and how they can be changed over time through self-discovery.

The show was offered to the public online and included digital tours, gallery showcases and artist interviews.

Schwakofer creates in a broad range of art mediums. Drawing, embroidery, mixed media, paint, photography, poetry, prints, quilting, textile, video and even wearable art can be found in her galleries at melindaschwakofer.com



Pictured is “The Road to Oklahoma,” quilt recently chosen as Second place in the 49th Annual Trail of Tears Art show and sale created by Mvskoke artist Melinda Schwakofer. (Submission)

Some of her creations can even be found installed in a window in Moretonhampstead’s Church of St. Andrews through an Art Raft for Health project. Art Raft for Health is an arts-based project to help local older people who are living with dementia or social isolation.

Schwakofer, who has a background in Counseling Psychology and deep interest in the positive influence of creativity on mental health, facilitates the group.

Through her personal artistic journey and training as Psychologist, she believes that deep healing can be achieved through art. She said creativity was always a big part of her personality.

For her everything came together when she began to work with textiles.

“Art making has given me a way to process and speak about emotions and events—both personal and historic—for which may sometimes be difficult to find the right words,” Schwakofer said.

“Putting together mental well being and artwork just made so much sense to me.”

Learning her personal history and channeling that self-discovery has been positive for Schwakofer.

“I see myself as confluence, as a place where two rivers come together.” Schwakofer said. “So it has really helped me learn about my identity, my family story and our tribal story.”

She said that creating gives her an avenue to make sense of deal with the impact of those traumas.

Schwakofer is also an internationally exhibited, award-winning artist. Her work is currently featured in the ‘First Americans’ exhibition at the Museum Volkenkunde in Leiden, the Netherlands. The exhibition was created to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the departure of the Mayflower from that same city in 1620.

To learn more about her work visit her website.

OKEMAH CREEK NATION HOSPITAL OPENS NEW MAMMOGRAPHY SERVICES

3D MAMMOGRAPHY MACHINE LAUNCHES IN TIME FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Lani Hansen
SENIOR REPORTER

OKEMAH, Oklahoma— The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health installed a new 3D mammography services at the Okemah Creek Nation Community Hospital.

“This new machine will provide screening mammograms for patients that live in this area (Okemah) of our jurisdiction,” Secretary of Health Shawn Terry said. “In the past they had to drive all the way to Okmulgee or Koweta for a mammogram.”

According to the MCNDH press release, services are available to both tribal citizens and non-Native patients and launched in conjunction with Breast Cancer Awareness Month. To present the new machine a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place in front of the hospital. MCN Principal Chief David Hill, MCN National Council Speaker Randall Hicks, Abbi Lee, CEO, Susan G. Komen Oklahoma and Terri were in attendance.

“The MCN remains committed to improving rural healthcare in the communities we serve,” Terry said. “Early detection drastically improves breast cancer survival rates and we are proud to bring these critical mammography services to residents in Okemah and surrounding areas.”

There are now three mammography services in the jurisdiction; one is at Koweta health facilities, the second is at the Okmulgee Medical Center and now in Okemah hospital.

According to the National Cancer Institute, one in eight women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. The 3D Genius Mammography technology provides greater accuracy, earlier breast cancer detection and improves the ability to find more invasive cancers.

As of October 8, Terry said they



The 3D mammography machine will provide services to tribal citizens and non-tribal citizens. (Lani Hansen)

have ran about twelve patients through the new 3D mammography services.

“We hope to start ramping up, because you start slow when turning on these new services but we hope it’s running all the time,” Terry said.

Native women have the highest incident in breast cancer, and Terry feels his first priority is to protect the citizens by adding a 3D mammography service.

Executive Director Susan G. Komen Oklahoma Abbi Lee added, “We know one of the most important factors in a breast cancer diagnosis is catching it early. That is why having a mammography machine within a short driving distance is such a gift for the area – not just the tribal members, but the entire community. The fact that it is 3D makes it even more so. 3D mammography machines make it so that fewer breast cancer diagnosis are missed.”

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BUTTERFLIES OFFER PEACE DURING DARK TIMES

EUCHEE BUTTERFLY FARM MAKES A SHIFT DURING THE PANDEMIC TO STAY SAFE AND PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER COVID

Angel Ellis
REPORTER



Euchee Butterfly Farm Director Jane Breckenridge shows visitors how butterflies at the farm lay eggs in the new enclosure built during the farms down time due to COVID. (Angel Ellis)

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — Director of Euchee Butterfly Farm Jane Breckenridge has been able to stay busy during the pandemic despite the fact that the farm was largely focused on educational classes and outreach geared towards saving the pollinators that are critical to agricultural.

Before COVID-19 it was normal to see various levels of professionals and citizens flock to the farm to learn about native plant species that attract pollinators. During their visit people would congregate around seeds and plants learning which plants attracted pollinators like the monarchs.

The farm also operated a flagship program called Natives Raising Natives project, a unique initiative that provided tribal members in Oklahoma all the tools, training and supplies to raise native species butterflies on their own land.

But like many industries COVID created a challenge. Before COVID many of the butterflies that were

raised through the Natives Raising Natives Project were sold for release at weddings and special events.

“Now one of our big requests has been to fill butterfly orders that are used at funeral ceremonies,” Breckenridge said. “It’s very sad but for people to see the butterflies during a dark difficult time it gives a sense of peace.”

For Breckenridge, holding classes could be dangerous.

“We are caretakers for elderly family,” Breckenridge said. “So we had to make sure we are socially distancing and we also have to keep our staff safe.”

Without classes the farm still made good use of the down time. The farm now has a butterfly house

were when it becomes safe visitors can see what goes into raising butterflies. In the giant open-air enclosure butterflies eat, lay eggs and the process is very interactive. The staff has even built a large fire pit for gatherings and trails to restored prairie habitats.

“We spent much of our time and energy into building and we built with all reused and recycled materials,” Breckenridge said.

The staff is harvesting seeds for plants that attract the butterflies and planting native species. The farm has also had two new buildings added to the site. One designated for conferences and trainings.

Another major change for the Euchee Butterfly Farm is SCOTUS decision. The land where the farm is located is officially recognized by the state of Oklahoma as a tribal reservation.

For Breckenridge the SCOTUS decision was a very emotional day.

“My overwhelming sentiment is gratitude,” Breckenridge said. “The only reason that I’m able to be on this land now is because the sacrifices of all of those who came before me.”

“I’m also acutely aware that many,

many other Mvskoke and Native people sacrificed just as much, but still lost their land.”

Knowing that not everyone was able to hold onto his or her land for various reasons is heart breaking for Breckenridge.

“I want to take good care of this land to honor all of them, those from my family that made it possible for me to be here now and those who were so unjustly robbed of their land,” She said. “It’s a shared resource, one that I hope can benefit all of our people and the many plants, animals and insects who also call it their home.”

Breckenridge thinks that Mvskoke people have amazing ancestors to live up too.

“To have our sovereignty reaffirms what the Este Cate have long known but others may have not understood: we are still here and we will continue to take care of the lands that are rightfully ours as citizens of the Muscogee Nation,” Breckenridge said. “I’m just grateful to in some way do my small part.”

That is why during a time of social distancing and great uncertainty she and her staff have worked tirelessly to prepare for brighter days.

MEAT PROCESSING PLANT BREAKS GROUND ON MCN RESERVATION

WITH A STRINGENT TIMELINE, CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON THE MCN MEAT PROCESSING FACILITY

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

BEGGS, Oklahoma – On Oct 9, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials and affiliates broke ground on the MCN meat processing facility called Looped Square Meat Co. located just south of the Duck Creek Casino on Highway 75.

The land for the facility was donated by the Duck Creek Community.

Members of the National Coun-

cil along with Principal Chief David Hill and Second Chief Darrell Proctor attended the event along with representatives from other departments including MCN Tribal Construction and MCN Environmental Services.

The construction for the 25,000 square foot building will be performed by Thompson Construction, INC. They architect is New Fire Native. They are both Native American owned companies.

The MCN Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources Trent

Kissee has been in the front line of the project from the beginning.

“I want to thank the administration for their support,” Kissee said. “It’s been a huge effort for everybody involved. The Duck Creek Community has been very welcoming and supportive of this project; they were the initial green light when we first started talking about this. I want acknowledge DAS Consultants and my team at the MCN Department of Agriculture and resources for the hard work.”

This nearly ten-million-dol-

lar facility is being built utilizing CARES Act funding and has a short timeline. The facility must be built by the end of Feb. as required by the guidelines of CARES Act funding.

According to MCN Tribal Construction Director Steve Emerson this is a risky project.

“Here at Tribal Construction, we have hired a construction management group at-risk [Thompson Construction, Inc.],” Emerson explains. “They are at-risk because they have a stringent timeline and at the end of this timeline if they are not complete

with the project, they will be responsible for paying liquidated damages each day past the project.”

The goal of the Looped Square Meat Co. is to provide food sovereignty for the MCN while providing meat processing services to the community. The facility will have state of the art equipment to process beef, pork, and even wild game including deer during season.

“This is something that our state needs especially our community,”

PLANT- 7



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PLANT

Continued from Page 6

Emerson said. "When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, there was a shortage of meat and a lot of processing plants throughout the nation closed down because COVID wreaked havoc with their employees. Everybody experienced the shortage when they went to buy meat and the prices were exceedingly high and shelves were empty. If we had this meat processing plant up and running, we could have helped the state and community."



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VETERAN MAKES TRIBUTE TO OTHER VETERANS

MCN VETERAN MICHAEL COON ELABORATES ON HIS ONGOING PROJECTS IN HONOR OF NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN RECOGNITION

Morgan Taylor
REPORTER

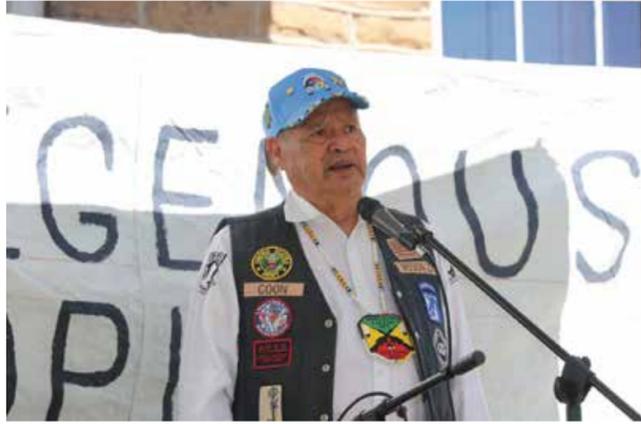
OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – On Oct. 12, the city of Okmulgee along with Muscogee (Creek) Nation held a celebration of Indigenous People’s Day replacing Columbus Day.

Guest speaker and veteran Michael Coon paid tribute to other Native American veterans at the celebration and also spoke of the different ways he is seeking veteran recognition.

"I am a member of the Gold Star Family. I lost my son who was a veteran in 2015," Coon said. "I continue in my mission to reach to other Gold Star Families to help them in the hardships, trails and tribulations that they go through when dealing with the loss of a loved one."

Coon is affiliated with Mission 22. They are currently working on a memorial at Broken Arrow Veterans Center that will unveil 20 silhouettes of Gold Star Family fallen soldiers.

"One of these silhouettes is my son," Coon said. "I ask that you join us when we celebrate the fallen soldiers at the unveil in April or May [2021]."



Michael Coon, MCN Veteran speaks at the Indigenous People’s Day celebration held in Okmulgee, Oct. 12. (Morgan Taylor)

Coon is currently working with the Senate on House Bill 4715 to help promote veteran services through an organization called National American Indian Veterans.

"I know because one might live in certain jurisdiction they can’t always get the services that they need," Coon said. "With NAIV it doesn’t matter where one is located they can get that assistance."

Montana Senator Mike Rounds is a major sponsor as well as other sponsors around the country.

"Of the 579 federally recog-

nized tribes, veterans will have their own entity," Coon said. "This is a long time coming as we are the highest ethnic group to serve in the military. It makes sense that we should have our own charter. We have had a huge response to this with sponsors from different senators from different states along with mayors all the way from California to North Carolina."

Coon is working on another project called Purple Hearts.

"I am working on making the cities here of the 39 tribes I am responsible for here in Oklahoma Purple Heart cities," Coon

said. "A lot of our native veterans were Purple Heart recipients so I think it would be a great honor for Okmulgee (MCN capital) to become a Purple Heart City to represent Muscogee Veterans."

Having a sign that states, "You are now entering Purple Heart City" and "You are now leaving Purple Heart City" as one enters and leaves the town would identify Purple Heart Cities.

South Korea donated PPE to the NAIV, which Coon has taken across the Muscogee (Creek) reservation and donated to different veteran facilities as well as other MCN facilities.

"We are appreciative of this donation as it gives back to the Native Americans for serving in the South Korean Homelands," Coon stated.

"At the NAIV, Veterans helping Veterans is our main concern," Coon said. "I ask that you write your chiefs asking for their support of the House Bill 4715 to make sure all 579 tribes are united as one."

The NAIV is a non-profit organization that helps and works for all Native American Indian Veterans. For more information on the NAIV and the works of Coon, check the NAIV Facebook page.



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The Straws of Anger

In the last article we talked about the importance of recognizing the straws of anger. Those daily experiences "straws" (events, situations, or circumstances) that can either add to or trigger an anger response. If we are not aware of all the little things that pile up that can feed our feelings of anger it will end in a blow up and losing one’s temper. I used the analogy of the "straw" that broke the camel's back.

I gave the appearance of an easy assignment on how to recognize your anger straws but in reality, it was harder than it seemed. What made this a hard assignment is stopping long enough to take time to think about what are the causes. This is known as introspection - looking into ourselves instead and seeing "what I can change".

Looking into ourselves and seeing "what can I change" is counterintuitive to our normal way of thinking. What we usually do is blame others or the situation for our behavior. We do this through justifying statements like

- "if he didn't do..."
- "because they wouldn't stop..."
- "she made me mad because..."
- "because they are a jerk so I..."
- "because I had a bad day I..."
- "I'm stressed..."

This list could go on and on but hopefully you get the idea.

When we blame others for our behavior, it takes away any feelings of guilt or responsibility on our part. Other people have to do all the changing not me. It's their problem, not mine. These blaming statements are statements of failure. When we expect others to make all the changes to make our life better really does not make sense if you think about it. In reality, I can only change myself. I can influence others but I cannot make them change. The only person I have total control over is myself.

This is where the majority of those I have worked with over the years get really frustrated with me because they never learned how to accept responsibility, how to stop blaming, how to use guilt as a positive motivator, and the hardest, change a behavior. Often when we are asked to do something we do not know how to do and it can appear hard or difficult, our initial reaction is to try and then give up or not try at all. The core roots of change are learning how, taking it one step at a time, and learning from mistakes.

Let's go back to the straw list you made of your triggers. After each statement on the list ask yourself "is this a blaming statement?" If yes, then dig a little deeper as to why it bothered you to the degree it did. You may come up with answers like: I did not get my way, I felt fear, I felt out of control, I felt anxiety, I felt like a child, I felt anger, etc.

Once you have identified some deeper core issues then ask yourself

- "what can I change?"
- "what do I have control over in this situation?"
- "does this really have to bother me to the degree it does?" (if the answer is yes then ask yourself "why does it bother me so much?")
- "was my expectation of the situation realistic for the moment or was it selfish on my part?"

Some will answer these questions and have an epiphany of areas they need to work on while others will struggle because they are not used to being introspective. Regardless, everyone is able to make changes, it just takes the willingness to learn and taking one step at a time.

If you or someone you know would like help with these questions, is struggling with anger, anxiety, worry, fear, stress or depression and need to talk to someone, please contact Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health at 918-758-1910.

Next time we will continue our discussion how to lower your anger so you don't blow up.

If you or someone you know is in crisis call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline Number at 1-800-273-8255 or Text "Creek" to 741-741.

MVTO



MCN citizen Lieutenant Commander Amanda Wyatt was named a Hero in Health (Submission)

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN RECOGNIZED FOR COVID-19 EFFORTS

NATIONAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD NAMES WYATT 'HERO IN HEALTH'

For Immediate Release

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—The National Indian Health Board has recognized Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Lieutenant Commander Amanda Wyatt, as one of this year's 'Heroes in Health.'

The NIHB annually honors outstanding individuals, programs and organizations from across Indian Country whose service and work make a major contribution to improving American Indian and Alaska Native health.

Wyatt is an Advanced Prac-

tice Nurse and Clinical Nurse Specialist who was selected for her leadership and contributions to the development of a COVID-19 emergency response hotline for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health.

She served as the sole point of contact for the hotline, providing real-time instruction and guidance on evidence-based practice recommendations, triage, consults, coordination of care, and community services directly related to the effects of COVID-19.

"It is with great respect as

a Muscogee (Creek) citizen to receive this incredible honor from the National Indian Health Board," Wyatt said. "I am grateful for my opportunities to serve Indian Country."

Wyatt has since transferred into a new position with Indian Health Service as the Director for the Diabetes Center at the Mid-Atlantic Tribal Health Center in Richmond, Virginia.

MCN would like to congratulate and thank Wyatt for her service to all citizens within the Muscogee (Creek) Reservation and Indian Country.

LEGALS

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OKMULGEE DIVISION

DISTRICT COURT
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2020 OCT 12 P 3:52
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

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MICHELLE LANETTE EARTLY,
nee BRUMFIELD, adult

MICHELLE L. EARTLY,
Petitioner,

vs.

JOHN A. BRUMFIELD, legal father,
deceased; and any unknown
heirs, legatees or administrators;

and
JAMES RICHARD LITSEY, alleged
biological father, deceased; and
any unknown heirs, legatees or
administrators;

Respondents.

Case No. CV 2020-45

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PATERNITY AND AMEND BIRTH CERTIFICATE**

TO: John A. Brumfield, deceased; and any unknown heirs, legatees or administrators; and James Richard Litsey, deceased; and any unknown heirs legatees or administrators:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition has been filed in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court for the determination of paternity of the Petitioner, MICHELLE LANETTE EARTLY, nee BRUMFIELD, an adult. The Petition alleges that DNA testing shows that the biological father of Petitioner is JAMES RICHARD LITSEY, deceased, a member of Muscogee (Creek) Nation and seeks to legally determine the relationship of parent and child and the membership and blood quantum of Petitioner in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Petition further alleges that the legal father of MICHELLE LANETTE EARTLY nee BRUMFIELD and her mother knew that the biological father existed and that the birth certificate was knowingly signed alleging false parentage.

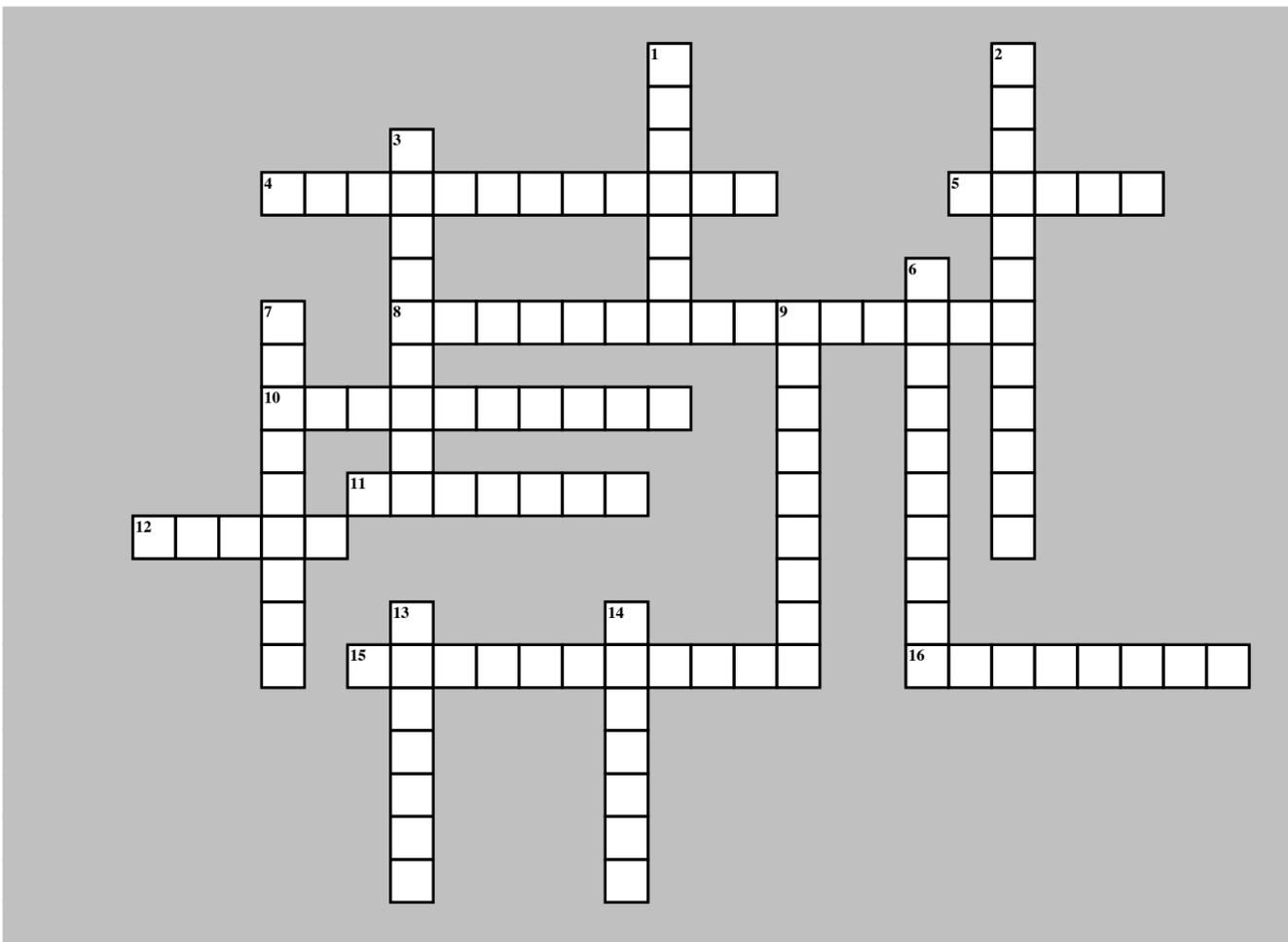
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that failure to appear at the hearing shall result in judgment by this Court determining paternity of the Petitioner, which judgment shall result in the issuance of a new birth certificate for the Petitioner with JAMES RICHARD LITSEY listed as father and shall operate to remove JOHN A. BRUMFIELD from the birth certificate of Petitioner.

This matter is set for hearing on the 17th day of December, 2020, at 11:00 a. m. before the undersigned judge of the District Court.

ANONYMOUS TIP LINE
918.777.3429

MVSOKKEMEDIA

CROSSWORD



Across

- 4 Pie pantry=Semvteke hute (2 words)
- 5 Spoon=Hakko
- 8 Saucer=Sesketv empvtakv (2 words)
- 10 Refrigerator=Hetute hute (2 words)
- 11 Coffee cup=Sesketv
- 12 Wooden stirring spoon=Vtapv
- 15 China cabinet=Pvlaknv hute (2 words)
- 16 Dining/living room chair=Ohliketv

Down

- 1 Fork=Cofunwv
- 2 Butcher knife=Eslafkv rakko (2 words)
- 3 Drinking glass=Fvlaskuce
- 6 Big Spoon=Hakko rakko (2 words)
- 7 Diningtable/ kitchen table=Okhompety
- 9 Cereal bowl=Pvlaknuce
- 13 Teaspoon=Hakkuce
- 14 Dinner plate=Pvlaknv

ANSWER KEY ON NEXT PAGE

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER!
MVSOKKEMEDIA.COM/NEWSLETTER

SUBMISSIONS

SINCERE APPRECIATION FROM THE FAMILY OF JOHNNY MORGAN

We, the family of Johnny Morgan, would like to Thank each & every one of you who remembered our brother, uncle, cousin, and friend in such an honorable way. Thank you to the MCN Transit and Charter Department for the compassion you showed us during our time of grief. Johnny working in that department made it easy for him to go to work. We can't thank you enough for the beautiful Pendleton blanket and the willingness in being Johnny's pallbearers. The balloon release was special. The memories shared meant a lot to our family. We would also like to thank the Principal Chief's office. Chief Hill and Second Chief Beaver for allowing us to put a memorial in front of the Transit Office. Thank you, Lighthorse Police, for escorting our procession to Montesoma Church. Thank you, church family, for the meals prepared and the

extra precautions taken during these trying times. Thank you, Brotherhood of the Montesoma Church and all the visiting ministers who brought comfort to us, through songs, prayers, and God's word. Thank you everyone who sent beautiful plants/flowers, sent cards, phone calls, visits, comforting words, and monetary donations were greatly appreciated. Thank you, Reverend Grover Wind and Reverend Marvin Lowe, for officiating our final goodbyes and last handshake to Johnny. That too meant a lot to us. If we could, we would mention all those who had a part in our healing process. Just so many... and we Thank All of You!! Lastly, we ask for your Continued Prayers for Comfort for our family.

With Sincere Gratitude.
MVTO-The Johnny Morgan Family
John "L" WE WILL DEEPLY MISS YOU

FIXICO-FRANK FAMILY REUNION

Attention to Fixico-Frank family. The family reunion in

Holdenville this year is cancelled due to the virus.

OBITUARIES



Neomi Jean Lindsey
Dec. 24th, 1952 -
June 28th, 2020

Neomi Jean Lindsey, 67, a resident of Bristow, Oklahoma passed away on Sunday, June 28th, 2020 at the home of her daughter, Minnie Lindsey in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Neomi Jean Lindsey (Wildcat) born on December 24th, 1952 to Wadie Wildcat and Louannie Whitlow. She was raised in Dustin, Oklahoma and attended Dustin Schools. She then went on to beauty school before moving to Dewar to raise her six children and during that time, she worked at G&H Decoy. After she raised her six children, she relocated to Bristow, Oklahoma to work for Kwikset. She was promoted within the company and got to travel to Mexico to work before choosing to retire to watch her grandchildren. She enjoyed

watching her grandchildren, going to yard sales and bingo, watching OU football and making Native American Art, but most importantly, she loved being with family and friends.

Neomi is preceded in death by her parents, 2 grandchildren Jonathan Caywood and Rebecca Lindsey, life companion Bobby Hamm, sister: Mary Shaw and son-in-law: Robby Meadows, stepson; Willie Hamm, and many other beloved family members.

Those left behind to cherish Neomi's memory are Danny Lindsey of Dewar, Oklahoma

her six children: Rose Meadows of Dewar, Oklahoma, Melissa (Andrew) Caywood of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Denise (Jeremy) Lindsey of Dewar, Oklahoma, Lewis (Angela) Lindsey of Bristow, Oklahoma, Minnie Lindsey of Tulsa, Oklahoma and Jack Lindsey of Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Grandchildren: Andrea, Nicholas, Danny, Vincent, Anthony, Mahaley, Mattie, Cameron, Kella, Kevin, Noah, Clara, Woody, Jaylin, Michael, Addie, Leeland and two grandchildren on their way; seven great-grandchildren and two on their way and a host of nieces, nephews and other family members.

Funeral Services were held on July 2 at Integrity chapel. Interment followed at Salt Creek Cemetery (Wilson

FEATURE SERIES: LEADERS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

LORI JUMP, DIRECTOR, STRONGHEARTS NATIVE HELPLINE

StrongHearts Native Helpline

In recognition of Native American leadership in the field of domestic and sexual violence, StrongHearts Native Helpline is presenting a series of columns featuring individuals making a difference in Indian Country. We begin the series with our leader, Lori Jump (Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa), director of StrongHearts Native Helpline.

Core Native American Values

As the Director of StrongHearts Native Helpline, Lori Jump has more than 30 years of experience working in the field of domestic and sexual violence. Before that she was a young mother with a passion for justice and a natural ability to lead. She was inspired by and gives credit to being raised in a traditional Native American family.

"We had the best kind of upbringing. Our house was open to whoever needed help. It didn't matter who they were—if we had it, we gave it. We never turned anyone away," said Lori explaining that her parents raised ten children and tended to many others. "For me, family is more important than any job, money, house, anything."

She explained that the cornerstone to the success of any organization is to incorporate and understand core values; and, it is with the utmost respect for her culture that she strives to tailor the work environment to fit Native people on a deeper level.

"When someone has a family issue, as an employer, you must be able and ready to let staff members deal with things that happen in their lives," said Lori. "I believe core Native American values include a heightened sense of family and community."

Working for her Tribe

When it comes to victim services in Indian Country, Lori was and still is a trailblazer. She has a long history working for her Tribe, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Although she says that she stumbled into the field of domestic violence, her career path was anything but a stumble.

In 1989, Lori applied for a tribal court clerk position but was encouraged instead to apply for a victim advocate job. She was soon hired and worked in this position before transitioning into a juvenile probation officer position. As a probation officer, she quickly learned that troubled teens are often found in homes experiencing domestic violence. Back then, it was her mission to not only ensure that the teens follow tribal law but also to guide them onto a better path in life.

Her Mentor

As is the case with trailblazers, Lori's mentor may seem unconventional but it was under his guidance she carved a path in Indian Country. Her mentor was Bob Nygaard, the Sault Tribe's grant writer who in the early days played an important role in the overall success of the development of the Tribe's programs.

"Bob was the Tribe's only grant writer. He wrote the initial grants for our tribal programs, but it became part of our job to write and apply for grants to maintain funding for our positions," said Lori. "He was an absolute master of the written word and it was with his expertise that I learned how to write and maintain grant funding."

Growing Tribal Programs

Lori recognized the connection between the need for services, grant writing and having a meaningful impact on the lives of Native people. It became her passion to ensure programs were well-funded.

The first grant Lori wrote was to maintain the victim advocate position. The initial grant was obtained from the State of Michigan in the amount of \$27,000. She increased



StrongHearts Native Helpline recognizes Director as Leader in Domestic Violence (Submission)

the request for the second grant and secured \$40,000 to continue the position. While advocating for victims of domestic violence, Lori continued to write more grants.

She wrote the grant and secured funding for the Tribe's Advocacy Resource Center (ARC), a direct service program that provides assistance and support to victims-survivors and their children impacted by domestic violence. She ensured the success of that program by becoming the Program Manager and hiring more advocates. In 1996, Lori obtained her first grant of \$86,000 from the Office of Violence Against Women.

"We were over the moon," said Lori. "The grant didn't roll out until 1997, but over the years we kept growing the program." In early 2000, she secured grant funding for the ARC's "Aakdehewin Gaamig - Lodge of Bravery (LOB)," a 16-bed temporary emergency shelter for victims of domestic and dating violence and their children. Soon after, she increased advocacy and added support services that were second to none.

Team Spirit

Lori and her team worked hard to build a comprehensive program that included emergency legal advocacy, criminal justice advocacy, crime victim compensation assistance, prevention and outreach education, and even funded a clinical social worker position in the Tribe's Behavioral Health Program that provides outpatient therapy to victims of sexual abuse and assault. She had become a leading expert in the field of domestic violence - a true leader in Indian Country.

"I didn't do it on my own. We were successful because we had really good people working for us. Our tribal board was supportive. The program was helping people and nobody had a problem with that," she explained. "Other tribal services and programs had requirements that were tied to income and where you live. Our program didn't have any. It didn't matter if you were on or off the reservation. If you were a victim of domestic violence and a tribal member, you were eligible."

The Missing Link: Uniting Three Fires Against Violence

Lori was so committed to justice that she identified the need for culturally-specific training not otherwise found in Michigan. For training, tribes were dependent upon non-Native programs with instructors who lacked a basic understanding of tribal governments, court systems and jurisdictional issues. So, in 2007, she secured funding to establish an organization that could provide culturally-specific training and resources.

Uniting Three Fires Against Violence (UTFAV) is a statewide tribal coalition with representation from all of Michigan's federally recognized tribes. UTFAV provides a variety of training opportunities to tribal advocacy programs, tribal leadership and tribal entities working in response to violence in Indian Country. Some of the training offered includes: domestic violence in Indian Country, sexual assault in Indian Country, sex trafficking in Indian Country, foundations of advocacy, historical trauma, and shelter advocacy - to name a few.

In 2013, UTFAV was struggling. Lori believed it was a valuable organization so much so that she made the difficult decision to leave the Tribe and take the lead at UTFAV. She stabilized the organization and ensured its continued success to the present day. She also became an appellate court judge for her Tribe and continues in that capacity today.

StrongHearts Native Helpline

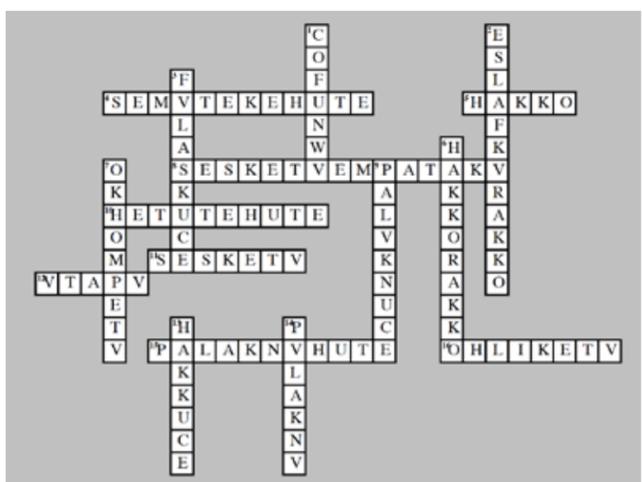
Lori wasn't looking for change when it came knocking at her door. She was offered a director position outside of her hometown where she had worked and lived for the past 30 years. It would be a life-changing decision to leave UTFAV, but destiny and fate were waiting at StrongHearts Native Helpline. It was to be the nation's first domestic violence helpline designed by and for Native Americans and Alaska Natives. It was the brainchild conceived by the National Domestic Violence Hotline (The Hotline) and the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC).

Lori moved to Austin Texas - a place she had never been - to learn the ropes of a domestic violence hotline under the wings of The Hotline and NIWRC. After a little more than three months, StrongHearts Native Helpline was launched on March 6, 2017.

"It's an honor to serve Indian Country," said Lori. "We have heard and are answering the call for victim services and advocacy on a national level. Thanks to the foresight of our parent organizations, The Hotline and NIWRC, Native Americans and Alaska Natives impacted by domestic violence have a trusted resource. StrongHearts advocates have already helped thousands of Natives Americans navigate the darkness of domestic, dating and sexual violence. They are on the front line meeting the needs of our people."

Lori is the daughter of Cecil and Edna Pavlat -nee Gurnoe. She has three sons Lenny (Becky) and Aaron (Kip) Jump and Nicholas Marsh. She is a grandmother of four children Andreaka and Mya Jump, Brendan and Kimberly McCormick.

MVSKOKE CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWER KEY



Fiscal Year 2020

In accordance with the following legislation:

NCA 20-050 A law of the Muscogee Creek Nation amending **NCA 20-038** (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditures of **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act** (“**CARES Act**”) funds received from the United States Department of the Treasury to establish the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Coronavirus Relief Fund Program.)

SECTION 7. REPORTING. A report shall be provided bi-weekly by the Office of the Principal Chief to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council and Mvskoke Media documenting all expenditures of the CARES Act funds.

First distribution of CRF, received 05-06-2020	\$282,266,728.86
Second distribution of CRF, received 6-20-2020	\$22,958,566.24
Third distribution of CRF, received 6-18-2020	\$7,250,073.54
Interest income as of 8-31-2020	\$141,002.78
Total received/earned	\$312,616,371.42

Total expenditures and encumbrances from the CRF funds as of this report date equals, \$119,880,065.81

On June 30th the Tribe distributed \$88,529,496.37 to MCN Gaming for CRF related expenses, total expends and encumbrances from the CRF fund as of Aug. 17 equals, \$96,683,785. The following report has been submitted for the publication date of **Nov. 1**.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT BUDGETED	EXPENDED	ENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCE
PRINCIPAL CHIEF					
50000	Salary & Wages-FT	47,723.00	-	-	47,723.00
50020	Salary & Wages-O/T over 1.5	19,900.00	-	-	19,900.00
50100	Salary & Wages-PT/Other	1,096,000.00	1,107,500.00	-	-11,500.00
51000	Fringe-FT	38,072.00	-	-	38,072.00
51100	Fringe-PT/Other	129,041.00	109,516.27	-	19,524.73
SECRETARY OF NATION					
59220	Grants	95,000,000.00	89,140,328.37	-	5,859,671.63
TOURISM & RECREATION					
53000	Supplies	30,000.00	26,646.00	-	3,354.00
CONTRACTING EMPLOYMENT					
59220	Grants	7,500,000.00	674,089.20	-	6,825,910.80
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
53000	Supplies	1,511,100.00	568,428.09	76,601.35	866,070.56
53010	Software/Licenses	2,010,000.00	523,031.39	369,839.62	1,117,128.99
54000	Contractual	935,010.00	244,138.25	75,473.75	615,398.00
55210	Communications- Other	98,661.57	56,627.83	-	42,033.74
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	102,630.43	2,811.48	-	99,818.95
85500	Equipment	4,042,000.00	361,799.20	2,178,232.19	1,501,968.61
FLEET MANAGEMENT					
50100	Salary & Wages - PT/Other	50,000.00	2,093.00	-	47,907.00
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	6,075.00	246.50	-	5,828.50
53000	Supplies	3,867,925.00	368,731.97	101,988.58	3,397,204.45
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	1,000.00	685.00	-	315.00
57000	Indirect costs	75,000.00	-	-	75,000.00
SOCIAL SERVICES					
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	113,107.65	48,218.87	-	64,888.78
51000	Fringe - FT	74,997.53	26,739.05	-	48,258.48
53000	Supplies	4,000.00	1,512.30	965.62	1,522.08
53010	Software/Licenses	8,000.00	4,000.00	-	4,000.00
54000	Contractual	313,720.00	33,242.59	280,037.19	440.22
59071	Direct Assist - Income Support	36,198,000.00	4,857,000.00	-	31,341,000.00
59072	Direct Assist - Hardship	30,000,000.00	2,943,000.00	-	27,057,000.00
SENIOR SERVICES					
53000	Supplies	200,000.00	-	176,456.08	23,543.92
FOOD DISTRIBUTION					
53000	Supplies	530,000.00	41,033.66	-	488,966.34
59050	Food Purchases	450,000.00	248,261.04	-	201,738.96
85170	Construction	50,000.00	7,979.57	-	42,020.43
85400	Vehicles	250,000.00	155,117.61	63,417.60	31,464.79
COMMUNITY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT					
55210	Communications - Other	45,000.00	-	43,093.30	1,906.70
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION					
50000	Salary & Wages- FT	4,934.00	1,875.62	-	3,058.38
50020	Salary & Wages - O/T over 1.5	133,300.00	133.27	-	133,166.73
51000	Fringe - FT	77,825.00	1,013.69	-	76,811.31
53000	Supplies	2,560,000.00	487.00	462,722.16	2,096,790.84
57000	Indirect Costs	0.00	190.54	-	-190.54
59073	Direct Assistance - Ed Support	9,600,000.00	8,839,100.00	-	760,900.00
CULTURAL CENTER & ARCHIVES					
53000	Supplies	2,500.00	-	2,425.00	75.00
TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION					
50100	Salary & Wages - PT/Other	85,608.00	-	-	85,608.00
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	10,701.00	-	-	10,701.00
53000	Supplies	25,000.00	-	-	25,000.00
57000	Architect & Engineering	844,140.00	711,898.82	132,241.18	-
85010	Construction	14,552,860.00	263,091.29	5,079,386.71	9,210,382.00
85170	Equipment	73,000.00	-	-	73,000.00
OFFICE OF TAX COMMISSION					
53000	Supplies	12,051.00	12,051.00	-	-
53000	Contractual	50,000.00	13,700.00	-	36,300.00
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	1,500.00	1,159.20	-	340.80
85500	Equipment	11,700.00	11,698.97	-	1.03
CITIZENSHIP BOARD					
53000	Supplies	350,485.00	14,861.50	82,260.00	253,363.50
53010	Software/Licenses	12,999.00	7,350.00	-	5,649.00
54000	Contractual	551,000.00	500,500.00	-	50,500.00
85500	Equipment	85,516.00	49,258.00	-	36,258.00
NATIONAL COUNCIL					
50100	Salary & Wares - PT/Other	12,000.00	12,000.00	-	-
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	1,458.00	1,458.00	-	300.00
DISTRICT COURT					
53000	Supplies	5,550.00	4,631.77	-	918.23
53310	Equipment Maint/Repair	10,512.00	-	10,512.00	-
85500	Equipment	150,171.68	-	150,171.68	-
SUPREME COURT					
50100	Salary & Wares - PT/Other	4,500.00	-	-	4,500.00
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	547.00	-	-	547.00
	TOTAL	214,026,820.86	111,998,935.91	9,285,824.01	92,742,060.94

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50020	Salary & Wages-O/T over 1.5	19,900.00	-	-	19,900.00
51000	Fringe-FT	37,072.00	-	-	37,072.00
51100	Fringe-PT/Other	0.50	-	-	0.50
SECRETARY OF NATION					
59220	Grants	5,859,671.63	-	-	5,859,671.63
TOURISM & RECREATION					
53000	Supplies	3,354.00	-	-	3,354.00
59050	Food Purchases	2,000,000.00	-	-	2,000,000.00
59440	Incidentals	3,500.00	-	-	3,500.00
CONTRACTING EMPLOYMENT					
59220	Grants	6,825,910.80	-	-	6,825,910.80
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
53000	Supplies	866,070.56	-	1,738.13	864,332.43
53010	Software/Licenses	117,128.99	-	39,501.12	77,627.87
54000	Contractual	615,389.00	-	77,896.25	537,492.75
55210	Communications- Other	56,952.26	-	-	56,952.26
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	99,818.95	-	-	99,818.95
85500	Equipment	1,501,968.61	-	1,227,550.15	274,418.46
FLEET MANAGEMENT					
50100	Salary & Wages - PT/Other	47,907.00	-	-	47,907.00
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	5,828.50	-	-	5,828.50
53000	Supplies	3,397,204.45	42,025.00	1,079,775.50	2,275,403.95
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	315.00	-	-	315.00
85500	Equipment	75,000.00	-	50,012.50	24,987.50
SOCIAL SERVICES					
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	64,888.78	-	-	64,888.78
51000	Fringe - FT	48,258.48	-	-	48,258.48
53000	Supplies	5,522.08	-	1431.15	4,090.93
53010	Software/Licenses	-	-	-	0.00
54000	Contractual	440.22	-	0.00	440.22
59071	Direct Assist - Income Support	31,342,500.00	1,453,000.00	-	29,889,500.00
59072	Direct Assist - Hardship	27,057,000.00	676,500.00	-	26,380,500.00
SENIOR SERVICES					
53000	Supplies	23,543.92	-	-	23,543.92
FOOD DISTRIBUTION					
53000	Supplies	488,966.34	-	34,030.42	454,935.92
59050	Food Purchases	201,738.96	-	-	201,738.96
85170	Construction	42,020.43	-	-	42,020.43
85400	Vehicles	31,464.79	-	-	31,464.79
COMMUNITY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT					
55210	Communications - Other	1,906.70	-	-	1,906.70
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION					
50000	Salary & Wages- FT	3,800.58	-	-	3,800.58
50020	Salary & Wages - O/T over 1.5	133,166.73	-	-	133,166.73
51000	Fringe - FT	77,192.13	-	-	77,192.13
53000	Supplies	2,096,790.84	-	-	2,096,790.84
57000	Direct Assistance - Ed Support	760,900.00	419,900.00	-	341,000.00
MCN MEAT PROCESSING PLANT					
50100	Salary & Wares - PT/Other	100,000.00	-	-	100,000.00
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	1,400,000.00	-	-	1,400,000.00
CULTURAL CENTER & ARCHIVES					
53000	Supplies	75.00	-	-	75.00
TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION					
50100	Salary & Wages - PT/Other	85,608.00	-	-	85,608.00
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	10,701.00	-	-	10,701.00
53000	Supplies	25,000.00	-	-	25,000.00
85170	Construction	9,210,382.00	-	-	9,210,382.00
85500	Equipment	73,000.00	-	-	73,000.00
OFFICE OF TAX COMMISSION					
53000	Contractual	36,300.00	-	-	36,300.00
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	340.80	-	-	340.80
85500	Equipment	1.03	-	-	1.03
CITIZENSHIP BOARD					
53000	Supplies	253,363.50	1,080.00	-	252,283.50
53010	Software/Licenses	5,649.00	-	-	5,649.00
54000	Contractual	50,500.00	-	-	50,500.00
85500	Equipment	36,258.00	-	-	36,258.00
DISTRICT COURT					
53000	Supplies	918.23	-	-	918.23
SUPREME COURT					
50100	Salary & Wares - PT/Other	4,500.00	-	-	4,500.00
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	547.00	-	-	547.00
	TOTAL	95,253,959.79	2,592,505.00	2,511,935.22	90,149,519.57



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



Clem George
101st ABN
U.S. Army

Butch McIntosh
Air Transportation
U.S. Air Force

Curtis Smith
7th Marines & 9th Marines
U.S. Marine Corps

David Yahola
5th Infantry
U.S. Army

David D. Francis
2nd Marine Division
U.S. Marine Corps

MVSKOKE NATION HONOR GUARD



In 1993, a group of Mvskoke veterans formed the "Este Cate Veterans" which developed into the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard. The Honor Guard was formally established and recognized in 1995, and consists of veterans from all branches of the military.

The Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard assemble to give military honors to our veterans, who have passed on without receiving proper military respect and honors. Since being established, our Honor Guard has been uninterrupted in their ability to render honors. They proudly come together in representation and honor of our tribe, our veterans, and Mvskoke People. The Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard is considered the premier Honor Guard in the state of Oklahoma.

Left To Right:
Commander
Thomas Yahola
2nd Howitzer Battalion
U.S. Army
Vice Commander
Loy Thomas
U.S.S. Bennington (CVS-20)
U.S. Navy



Sammy Bass
9th Mt Bn, 3rd Marine Division
U.S. Marine Corps



John Melton Jr.
3rd Bn, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division
U.S. Marine Corps



Left To Right: John Melton Jr., Oswald "Baldie" Melton, Rufus Scott, Sammy Bass, David D. Francis, Curtis Smith, Commander Thomas Yahola, Vice Commander Loy D. Thomas, Veterans Courtwright, Clarence Johnson, David H. Yahola, Charles E. Melton, Mike Wessley, Cruz George, Harold B. Dobbie



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Celebrating Veteran's Day November 11

U.S. AIR FORCE



Ronald L. Ashley

Branch: U.S. Air Force

Years Served: 1954-1957

Ashley was born to George and Maudie (Dugger) Ashley at Bald Hill, OK on August 4, 1934. He was raised at Tahlequah and graduated Central High School in 1952. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1954 and was stationed in Alaska for three years. After returning to Tahlequah, he met a red-haired young lady and in October of this year they celebrated 62 years of marriage. Ashley earned a bachelor degree at Northeastern State College in 1961 while working in the NSC print shop. His master degree was completed in the summer of 1964. From 1961 through 1986, he taught Industrial Arts Printing at Northside High School, Fort Smith, AR. After retiring, he spent 4-1/2 years on a construction missionary team in Mexico where they built 48 churches, four homes for pastors, two Bible schools and delivered a semi-trailer of ground corn to the Tarahumara Indians.

Paul D. Brown

Branch: U.S. Air Force

Years Served: 1964-1968

Brown was stationed at Amarillo Air Force Base and McCord Air Force Base. He served in Vietnam in July 1966 to July 1967. Brown is proud to be Mvskoke. He resides in Sapulpa and attends Pickett Chapel United Methodist Church.



Anderson John Childers Jr.

Branch: U.S. Air Force

Years Served: 1964-1968; 1974-2002

Childers served at various stateside locations and overseas. He retired as a Senior Master Sergeant after 33 years. Childers served as a security police.

Gary L. Deerinwater

Branch: U.S. Air Force

Years served: 1968-1972

Deerinwater enlisted February 1968 and was honorably discharged February 1972 during which he attained the rank of Staff Sergeant E-5. He received his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, TX and was trained in Basic Electricity and Missile Cable Splicing. His job title was Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Cable Splicing Specialist. Appointed N.C.O.I.C. of the Missile Cable Maintenance and Repair Department of the 392nd Communications Squadron of the Strategic Air Command at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Deerinwater received various accommodations and awards. Recently, Vandenberg Air Force Base has been converted to the to the new Space Force Branch of the Military.



William Leroy Grayson

Branch: U.S. Air Force

Years Served: 1943-1946

Grayson was born July 19, 1921 at Red Fork, OK, to Willie and Beatrice Weaver Grayson. He entered the service in 1943. Grayson moved to Vinita, OK on his return from the war in 1946 after serving in the U.S. Air Force. He helped build the runways for the airplanes to land during WW2. When he came home he became a pipeline welder and welded pipe all across the U.S., retiring in 1986. He married Velma Meads and had 2 daughters. He was proud to be a member of the Creek tribe. William went to be with the Lord May 4, 2000. He was 78.

Kenneth Gene Harjo

Branch: U.S. Air Force

Years Served: 1963-1967

Harjo was born on July 11, 1945 in Henryetta, OK to Eugene and Suzanna (Tiger) Harjo. He is a full blood Creek citizen. Harjo graduated from Henryetta High School in 1963 and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in October of 1963. He did a tour of duty in England. Harjo was honorably discharged in March of 1967. He attended Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree majoring in Accounting and Business Administration. Harjo married Marsha Ryals in 1968 while both attended NSU. They bore two sons Jeff and Ryan, and one granddaughter Finley. After graduating college, he worked as an accountant for several organizations in Kansas. In 2011, Harjo moved his family to Muskogee, OK and is currently employed by the MCN as the General Ledger Accountant.



Hepsy Ann Little

Branch: U.S. Air Force

Years Served: 1968-1972

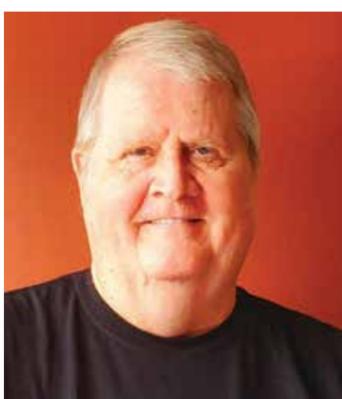
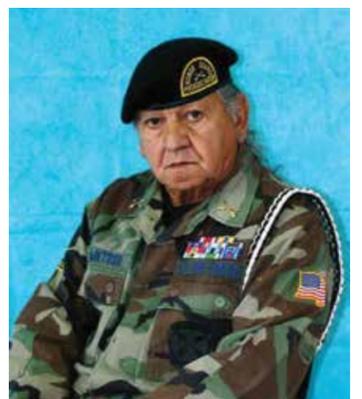
Little is from Bearden, OK. She was inducted into the U.S. Air Force in 1968 and was an SP 4. She was stationed at Travis Air Force Base in CA; Biloxi Air Force Base in MS; Lackland Air Force Base in TX and Okinawa Japan during 1971-72.

Donald "Butch" McIntosh

Branch: U.S. Air Force

Years Served: 1961-1994

McIntosh was the Senior Master Sergeant (E-8) during his career in the U.S. Air Force. His career was in air transportation and it took him to the countries of Germany, Spain, Japan, and Panama. McIntosh is honored to have served his country and represent the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.



David Jack Ware

Branch: U.S. Air Force

Years Served: 1968-1974

Ware served on Active Duty during the Vietnam era, mostly in the Philippines and in Okinawa, which was still under U.S. occupation since World War II before reversion to Japan. His assignments include: Lackland AFB, Texas (1968-69), Goodfellow AFB, Texas (1969-70), Altus AFB, Oklahoma (1971-72), Clark AB, Philippines (1970 and 1972-74), and Kadena AB, Okinawa (1970-71). He received an honorable discharge due to malaria during his time in the Philippines. Ware is retired from U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with 42 years combined Federal Military and Civilian Service. Ware is an at-large Muskogee (Creek) citizen who now resides in Honolulu, Hawaii.

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U.S. ARMY



Gerald D. Alexander

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 20 years

Alexander retired from the Army after 20 years and 9 months of service. He was born on September 8, 1940 at Claremore Indian Hospital. His education began at Haskell Institute where he graduated in 1958. He then went on to the NCO Academy. After that he received his Bachelor of Science degree from Austin Peay State University. These achievements lead to a successful career at the NASA Langley Research Center as an Engineer Technician. During his military service Alexander was awarded the following: Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Award), Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal (5th Award), Expert Rifle Badge, and the Drivers Badge. He was deployed to Turkey, Germany (2 tours), and to Puerto Rico in support of the Cuban Missile Crisis. His stateside deployments included Fort Carson, Fort Gordon, Cameron Station, Fort Bliss, and Fort Campbell. Alexander is currently a citizen at large in Virginia with his wife, Judy, 3 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Prescovie Anderson

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1952-?

Prescovie Anderson Sr. was a Muscogee Creek from IXL, OK. Drafted on July 17, 1952 he served in occupied Japan and the Korean War where he was on graves detail. He was wounded during his service and there is little detail from that time.



John J. Asbury

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1951-1987

Asbury was part of Company 'C' 110th R.C.T 28th Div. Pennsylvania known as the 'Red Bucket'. He received training at Camp Atterberry in Indiana. His 1st Tour was Germany in 1951-'52 and his 2nd tour was in Germany in 1957-'59. Asbury served in many branches 1st Div. Double D, 3rd, Army Air Corps, 7th Army 95th Div. and 'C' Company 120th English Battalion 45th Div. OKARNG. He was also in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Honor Guard until health got him. John had over 30 years of service.

Billy Bear

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: Died in Battle

Billy was killed in action during a battle in Korea. He died on Memorial Day at the age of 25 in 1953. He was the son of Roley Bear and Kitty Bear. Gone but not forgotten.



Clifford Bear

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: Unknown

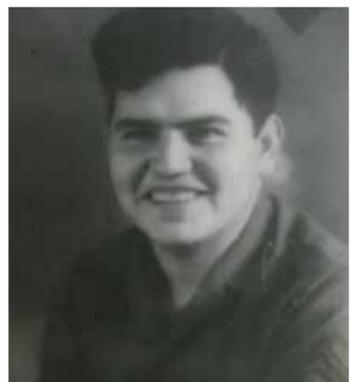
Clifford joined the U.S. Army after graduation from the Haskell Institute in Lawrence, KS. He was very athletic and was involved in different sports. In the Army he was stationed in Germany. Clifford was so likeable with a big heart. He passed on Father's Day, year unknown. He was the son of Roley Bear and Kitty Bear. In this picture he is the second from the right, the one with crossed arms.

Roosevelt Bear

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 2 years

Bear served two years active duty and was stationed in Japan as a Railway Transportation Officer. After being discharged, he went back home and married Maxine Garrett and together had a son and a daughter. Bear packed up his family and headed to California and spent the remainder of his life in Sacramento as an automotive inspector for the state of California. He had four brothers who also served their country. Bear passed May 12, 1993. He was the son of Roley and Kitty Bear.



Roy Bear

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: Unknown

Bear went to school and graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, KS. After high school, he enlisted in the United States Army. Bear passed in September of 2014. He was the son of Roley and Kitty Bear.

Donnie Bevenue

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1964-1967

Bevenue was born to Leonard and Mary Cumsey Bevenue. He currently lives in Sapulpa, OK with his wife of 54 years Carol Bevenue and together they had 2 children, Donald and Melinda Bevenue. They have 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Bevenue graduated from Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah. On July 1 he entered the U.S. Army and went to Fort Belvoir, VA for AIT, upon completion he was sent to Fort Bliss, TX and in September of 1965, his unit was sent to Vietnam and came back in September of 1966. His ETS was from Fort Sill in 67. Bevenue lost his right leg in the year of 2000 to infection and just recently lost his left leg to diabetes.



Acee "Ace" Buckner

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1966-?

Buckner is a full blood Muscogee (Creek) citizen. He enlisted in the Army in 1966 in the Signal Corp, attending Basic Training at Ft. Leonardwood, MO. and Advance Individual Training at Ft. Gordon, Ga., and then Jump School at Ft Benning, GA. He was then assigned to the 82nd Airborne at Ft Bragg, NC. Upon exiting the Army he attended Oklahoma State University to become a Medical Assistant and Community Health Care Representative. Buckner is fluent in the Creek language, culture, and traditions. He is an active participant in ceremonial ground activities, and presents Tribal History to many groups. As a tribal health care worker he translates doctor's orders and instructions to patients who are Mvskoke speakers. He helps organize health fairs and the dissemination of health care information to tribal members.

Lewis Collins

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1942-1947

Collins was born Sept. 15, 1913 in Lenna, Oklahoma. Tribal town is Okchiye. He was the son of Rev. Lewis and Sophie Collins. His father was the pastor of Little Coweta Indian Baptist Church in Lenna, Oklahoma until he died before his son Lewis Jr. was born. Collins married Helena McGee of Stidham, Oklahoma on July 27, 1936. They had twelve children (Ada Mae, Lewis, Sophie, Chester, Wanda, Wendell, Eddie, Ellar, Ida, Phyllis, Johnny, and Carolyn). Collins joined the U.S. Army in 1942 and was honorably discharged in 1947. Shortly after the Army, the family was relocated to Arizona. Life was not easy in Arizona but he continued to work hard to support his family. He was a retired farm worker and died September 14, 1991 peacefully during bible study. He was a longtime member of New Testament Baptist Church of Tucson, Arizona.



Chepamie Cox A.K.A. Jack Hill

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1918-1918

Chepamie was born April 10, 1897 in Tuckabatchee, OK to Kullar Cox and Sarah Givens. At the age of 8, he was sent to a boarding school in the Muscogee area where he learned to speak English and perfected his beautiful penmanship. After graduating from high school, he went on to attend Haskell Indian Nations University where he played football. At the age of 21, he enlisted in the US Army, but his career in the service was short-lived. After boot camp he was stationed on a ship that was scheduled to sail overseas when the ship was quarantined due to a measles outbreak. The ship was still docked in the New York harbor when the war was declared over. He married Linnie Mae Smith and became the father of Leona, Susiana, Eugene, and Betty.

Eugene B. Cox AKA Buddy Hill

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1944- 1945

Eugene was born on March 19, 1926 in Eufaula, OK to Chepamie and Linnie Mae Cox. He grew up with his three sisters near his Muscogee grandparents. His dad taught him how to farm. Around 12 years old he fell off a combine and cut off half of his right pinky finger; he never liked farming after that. He enlisted in the Army at 18 years old and fought in the Philippines. When home from leave, he met Jo Beth Mouser at church in Hanna, OK and got married shortly after. They had three daughters: Pamela, Cathy, and Marie. A few years later, he moved his family to California and became an ordained minister. Eugene was very proud of his Muscogee (Creek) heritage and visited Eufaula almost every summer.





Thomas R. Cummings

Branch: U.S. Army

Years served: 1917-1920

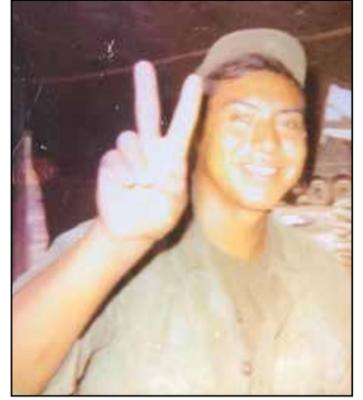
Creek citizen Thomas Cummings served in the American Expeditionary Force's 130th field artillery unit that fought in World War I. Thomas' father David, a Civil War veteran who came to Oklahoma from Alabama on the Trail of Tears, founded Hillabee Indian Baptist Church and served in the House of Kings and the House of Warriors. Thomas enlisted while at Haskell Institute in Lawrence, KS, trained at Camp Doniphan in Oklahoma and crossed the North Atlantic on the armada of troop transports that took U.S. soldiers to European battlefields. Thomas joined the fighting in France, eventually providing artillery cover in the Argonne-Meuse Offensive, which led to the Armistice. Upon returning, Thomas survived a pandemic and kept the homestead going through the Great Depression. Thomas worked an ammunition depot in McAlester during World War II before retiring to his homestead in McIntosh County where he lived until his passing in 1974.

Billy J. "Bill" Davis

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1968-1970

Davis was born at Talihina Indian Hospital and lived between the South Canadian and Little Rivers in Hughes County. He was born to Bennie and Carrie (Floyd) Davis and moved to Oklahoma City when he was 5 years old. He attended OKC public school until graduation. In 1968, he was drafted into the US Army. His Basic Training was in TigerLand at Fort Polk, LA and the US Armor School at Fort Knox, Kentucky for AIT. Davis' MOS was 11E20, Combat Armor Vehicle (M48) Tank Crewman with additional training on a prototype armored vehicle (Sheridan). From Fort Knox, Davis received orders for deployment to Vietnam where he was assigned to 2nd/34th Armor with the 25th Infantry Division. During 11 months of in-line duty, was awarded two Bronze Stars with "Oak Leaf Clusters" and two Army Commendation Medals with "V Device".



Eugene Ray DePriest

Branch: US Army

Years Served: 1942-1946

Ray began his service in the Army stationed in Kentucky. His service travels took him to California, Maryland, and the Philippines, before ending his military career in Okinawa, Japan. He married Esta Mae Ross from Checotah, OK, on September 8, 1944. They were married for 56 years upon his passing on December 8, 2000. They had 3 girls, Peggy Bradley, Judy Gregory, and Jean Mortimer. The DePriest family, having arrived in Oklahoma before 1898, was honored as one of the founding families of Bixby. Ray's great great grandfather, Alex DePriest, traveled to Oklahoma through Tennessee and Arkansas arriving in Oklahoma in 1875. Ray's great great grandmother, Emma Chisolm, traveled here on what is now known as the "Chisolm Trail." Ray's grandfather, James Walter DePriest was sheriff in Easter Oklahoma Indian Territory until after statehood in 1907. James Walter brought the first Ford car into Bixby. Many of the DePriest descendants still reside in and around the Bixby area.

Sgt. George C. Dunn Sr.

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1981-2003

Dunn enlisted in the Oklahoma Army National Guard HHC 120th Engineer Combat Heavy Battalion in 1981. Enlistment contract was under the split training option program during his junior year at Morris High School. In summer 1981, he began basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina for eight weeks. He came back to graduate from MHS in 1982. Dunn left for Advanced Individual Training the summer of 1982 for eight weeks at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. In 1984, he started his full-time career with the U.S. Army-Okmulgee Armory. He served two tours to Jamaica and one to Panama. He received several awards during his military career and retired October 31, 2003 with 22 years 8 months of service. Family includes his wife-Barbara Dunn and 3 children, George II, Holly and Michelle Dunn and five grandchildren Destiny Dunn, Mercedes Dunn, Giorgio Dunn, GiAnah Munds and Bishop Bert.



William Richard Dunson

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1966-1968

Served during the Vietnam War from March, 1967, through March, 1968. Served as a Sky Soldier in the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Was a recipient of the following commendations:
National Defense Service Medal
Vietnam Service Medal
Vietnam Campaign Medal
Parachute Badge
Combat Infantryman's Badge
Purple Heart

Jonathon Stevens "JS" Fisher

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1940-1945

Fisher was son to Lewis Henry Fisher and Ina (Tilly) Fisher, both Creek Citizens and original allotment awardees. He grew up in Okemah, attended Business College, and enlisted in the 45th National Guard (Thunderbirds) in Sept 1940. Due to his superior business skills, he rapidly advanced to Staff Sergeant. When Pearl Harbor was attacked, he went full time and entered a program for Warrant Officer (enlisted pilot training), with an eye toward serving his country in the air. On December 21, 1941, Aviation Cadet Fisher married his sweetheart Joyce and in the spring the couple moved to California as part of the West Coast Air Corps Training Det, airbase Santa Ana (Tustin). He made Warrant Officer in December 1942, and served the rest of the war out of Minter Field, Bakersfield (CA) as supply officer. He separated from the Army at Roswell, NM in the Fall of 1945.



Newman Frank

Branch: U.S. Army

Years served: 1950-1952

Sergeant Newman Frank, the son of Austin and Ida Frank, was drafted into the Army, October 1950, discharged October 15th, 1952 with the rank of Sergeant. Frank went to work for Hale Halsell whole sale grocery and retired after 42 years. Frank was the Pastor of Bixby Circuit (United Methodist) for 13 years, one year at Broken Arrow Indian United Methodist church, and retired from ministry June 1995. Frank passed away October 1995. Those who miss him very much are wife-Louvia, Son-Newman Jr., Daughters- JoEllen, Doris, Ida and Grandchildren.

Roger W. Frank

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1966-1967

Frank is a Vietnam Veteran. He served as truck driver in the 1st Infantry Division, supply and transportation. He is a full blood citizen of the Mvsokke (Creek) Nation. His tribal town is Tukvptce and his clan is the Tiger Clan. Frank retired in 2005 after working as an inspector in the steel industry for 38 years. He resides in Oklahoma City, OK with his wife Teresa.



MSG Leonard Gouge

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1984-2013

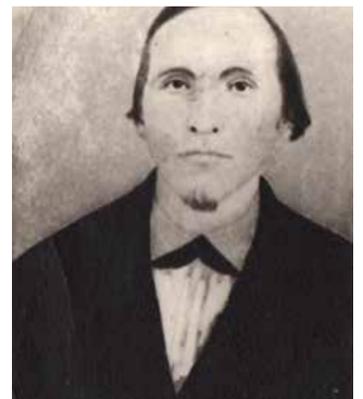
MSG Gouge joined the Army in 1984 as Private First Class he did his basic training at Ft. Dix, New Jersey. From there he went to Ft. Benning, Georgia for his AT. MSG Gouge was stationed in Germany, where he achieved the rank of Sgt. Upon return to the States, MSG Gouge went into the Army Reserves where he became a Drill Sgt. He would train hundreds of Army soldiers of the years as a Drill Sgt. In 2003, he was activated where he was stationed at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma for a year training soldiers. In 2006, MSG Gouge was once again activated and sent to Afghanistan for 15 months. While in Afghanistan he achieved the rank of MSG and was awarded the Bronze Star for his ability to work directly with the Afghan soldiers. MSG Gouge retired from the U.S. Army in 2013.

Robert Grayson

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: Unknown

Grayson (son of Katy Grierson, first cousin to Chilly MacIntosh), probably fought with the troops of Opothleyahola in the Civil War (North.) As we all know, the Civil War was a terrible time for our people, and there is limited documentation. We know nothing about Robert's life, except that he left behind a wife and child, and died in the refugee camps outside Fort Gibson, probably early winter, 1864. He was uncle to George Washington Grayson (CSA) who was later Chief of the Creek Nation.



Washington Grayson

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: Unknown

Washington "Wash" Grayson served as a Major in the 87th Infantry Division, 336th Machine Gun Battalion of the U. S. Army during WWI. He was one of Chief Grayson's sons "Little Wash" they called him, also fought in WWI which was no light accomplishment, since Native Americans weren't expected to serve in the military, due to being "wards of the government".

Charles A. Harjo

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1966-1969

Charles Anthony Harjo was son to late Mary Jayne Harjo (Samuel), and Henry Harjo Sr.; and brother to Henry Harjo Jr. of Edmond, Oklahoma. Charles passed due to second bout with "Agent Orange" in March 2013. He was an enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and tribal affiliation with Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Harjo was a United States Army veteran formally assigned to 173rd Airborne Brigade Vietnam - also known as the "Herd" - served two tours in Vietnam from 1967 to 1969. He received his jump school training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Germany. Charlie is the recipient of Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star Medal, two Purple Heart Medals, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and National Defense Service Medal. Harjo formally served as chairman to Wichita Intertribal Warriors Society in Wichita, Kansas, and member of Veterans of Foreign Wars.



Eugene M. Harjo

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1940-1945

Harjo was born on March 3, 1918 to Alex and Nancy Harjo in Okemah, OK. Harjo was a full blood Muscogee (Creek). He graduated from Chilocco Indian School in Newkirk, OK. Harjo met Suzanne Tiger of Henryetta, OK while at Chilocco and they eventually married in 1943 and bore seven children. Harjo enlisted in the Army in September of 1940. He earned the rank of staff sergeant and was in the military police. He did a tour of duty in Naples and Sicily during June, 1943 to July, 1944. Harjo was honorably discharged in September 1945. He earned the EAME Service Ribbon with two Bronze Service Stars, Silver Star Medal, American Defense Service Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal. Harjo was killed in a construction accident in 1954.

Jim B. Harjo

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1965-1968

Harjo is a 100 percent disabled Vietnam Veteran. He served in Vietnam in 1967-68 with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade (Redcatchers), Alpha Company 3rd/7th. He is of the bear clan and his tribal town is Alabama/Quassarte. Harjo served two and a half terms as a Creek Nation National Council member. He is a graduate of Haskell Indian Nations University, OSU Okmulgee and attended Northeastern in Tahlequah. Davis has been married to his wife Nettie for 50 years. They have three children and four grandchildren.





Billy David Hill (Meeko')

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1950-1952

Hill's grandparents walked the "Trail of Tears" and his parents passed young. His brother Lewis survived the Pearl Harbor attack but later died in WWII. Hill was sent to Jones Academy and was raised by a foster family. He enlisted in the army at 19 and trained at Camp Polk. He learned to load and fire the Howitzer. Hill was knocked unconscious from his foxhole and was in the hospital for 30 days under the name John Doe in Tokyo. Once he woke, it was discovered he was the last living "Hill" in his family and he was honorably discharged. He returned to the states and moved to Wichita, KS and worked for Boeing and met Pansy. They married and bore five children. Hill passed on May 6, 2014.

Joe F. Hutchinson

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: Unknown

Hutchinson was in the U.S. Army in WWII, attached to the First Division ("Big Red One"). He sailed to Ireland on the RMS Queen Mary. [The Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth were both converted to troop carriers in WWII]. Hutchinson was with the first American Expeditionary Forces in WWII; leaving their training camp at Stonehenge in England, they landed at Oran to join British troops in North Africa. They eventually battled for Kasserine Pass (Operation Torch, November 1942). The First Division was seriously diminished after this series of campaigns, and Hutchinson was one of the survivors. He was then attached to Patton's troops when they went through North Africa, Sicily and into Italy, landing at Anzio. Just short of the invasion of Rome, Hutchinson was seriously wounded in the chest (listed for a while as MIA) and was eventually sent home on the RMS Queen Elizabeth.



James Leo (Little) Humble

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1969-1971

Humble is from Cromwell, OK. He was inducted in the Army on March 26, 1969. He was a SP-4 Combat Veteran and served in Vietnam during Sept 9, 1969 through Aug 31, 1970. He was stationed at Phuoi - Bai with 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles. He earned the Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, the National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device, One Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal, and Marksman Rifle. Humble discharged from the Army on April 2, 1971.

Turner W. Hunt

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 2007-2012/2016-Present

Hunt enlisted in the U.S. Army as an infantryman (11B) in 2007. After OSUT and airborne school at Fort Benning, Hunt was assigned to 2 Battalion, 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg. In 2012, Hunt left active duty and returned to Oklahoma to utilize his Post-9/11 GI Benefits at the University of Oklahoma. In 2016, Hunt returned to service in the Army Reserve and is currently a Civil Affairs Specialist (38B) and the Operations NCO for D. Co 486th Civil Affairs Battalion, Tulsa, OK. Among other awards and badges, Hunt has earned two Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, Expert Infantryman Badge, & Parachutist Badge. Turner Hunt is the archaeological technician for the Historic and Cultural Preservation Department for the Muskogee (Creek) Nation. Save Oce Vpofv.



Godfrey R. Hutchinson

Branch: U.S. Army Air Force

Years Served: Unknown

Hutchinson was U.S. Air Force during WWII, stationed in Sax Mundhum, UK as well as Scotland, near Glasgow. He worked on aircraft instrumentation and electrical systems during his years in service, however due to his size and skill boxing (he was a Golden Gloves!) he was often tasked for MP duty. Hutchinson's adventures were many, and he spent some time in London during 'The Blitz', as well as various duty stations in Germany and France. Hutchinson was part of the American Folk movement. He loved playing the guitar; he picked up many gigs in wartime England, playing "cowboy songs" in pubs, and telling stories about Indians and Oklahoma. (The American folk movement of WWII set the stage in the UK for the later Mersey Beat, Brum Beat, and "British Invasion" Rock). After the war, Hutchinson worked as a civilian technician at Tinker AFB.

Jeremiah Lewis

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1954-1956

Lewis' service time included serving in the Korean War with the 7th Division. He was born Oct. 14, 1935 and died Jan. 8, 2020. He attended Eufaula schools in Eufaula, OK. Jeremiah retired after 35 years of employment with the Indian Health Service. He was a proud member and served with the Mvsokke (Creek) Nation Honor Guard and was a member of the Eufaula Veterans of Foreign Wars. Lewis' tribal town was Chiaha and his clan was tiger.



Leo Little

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1942-?

Little was born on Feb 10, 1921. He was from Bearden, OK. Little was inducted into the Army on Sept 8, 1942. He earned rank of Sergeant and was a World War II Combat Veteran. He earned a Good Conduct Medal, EAME Theater Ribbon, four Bronze Service Stars, one Bronze Arrowhead, Purple Heart and 11 Victory Ribbon. He passed on March 12, 1989 at the age of 68.



Sammy Ray Little

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1970-1972

Little is from Bearden, OK. He was inducted into the Army in 1970. He was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Gie Ben, Germany. He was E4 and discharged from the Army in 1972.



Ashlyn Lowe

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 2018-Current

Ashlyn Lowe was born in Portsmouth, Virginia. She is a 2017 graduate of Chugiak High School in Chugiak, AK. Lowe joined the Army in Oct. of 2018 and after completing Basic Combat Training and graduating from Advanced Individual Training with honors, she earned the MOS of 35S Signal Analyst. Lowe recently earned the rank of E4/SPC and is currently stationed in Fort Meade, MD.

Billy McKane

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1967-2003

McKane was inducted into the Army in October of 1967. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was 63C30, Mechanic. He served Active Duty, Reserves, and the National Guard. Additional MOS included supply, medical, nurse, and light and heavy weapons leader. His training in special skills included basic airborne training, Jumpmaster course with Senior Jumpmaster, and Pathfinder. He served overseas in the 44th Evacuation Hospital during Desert Storm as a Ward Master of a 30-bed ICU ward. In his Special Forces units, Native Americans served at a higher rate per capita, making them the majority of soldiers with which he served. Some of these soldiers included Donnie Bible (Cherokee), Sgt. Morris (Choctaw), Sgt. Holt (Shoshone), Kenny Bunner (Mvsokke), Sgt. Squirrel (Cherokee), MSG Bill Glass (Cherokee), MSG Jerry Haney (Seminole). This list is a small portion of those he served with. He is grateful for his memories with them all. He retired as Master Sergeant.



Jackie W. Miller

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1967-1969

Basic training at Ft. Bliss, TX. 1967
A.I.T. at Ft. Ord, CA and Fort Know, KY.
Gelnhausen, Germany 1967 - 1968. 3rd Armored Div., 2nd 48th Infantry (Mechanized)
Da Nang, South Vietnam, 1968 - 1969. 156th HEM
Dong Ha, South Vietnam, 1969. 237th Maintenance (DET).
Rank SP4

Kelly R. Moore

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1942-1944

Moore was born on March 29, 1914. While a student at Bacone, he had been a member of Co. "I" of the 180th Infantry regiment, Oklahoma National Guard. He later enlisted in Co. "K" of the 179th Infantry regiment, Oklahoma National Guard in Okmulgee. He attended the United States Army Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He graduated as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in 1942. Overseas he was assigned to the Army's 34th Infantry Division, which was then engaged in battle with forces of the Axis Powers in Southern Italy. Moore was killed in action at the Battle of Cassino in Italy on February 5, 1944. Today he lies in a U.S. Army Cemetery near Nettuno, Italy. Moore's military decorations are Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, North African Theater Ribbon, and Italian Campaign Ribbon.



Amos D. (A.D.) Partridge, Jr.

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1957-1977

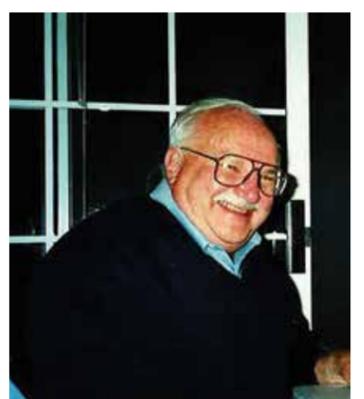
SSG Amos D. Partridge, JR. was the son of Nora Watson and Amos D. Partridge, SR. A.D. enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1957, serving his country for 20 years, retiring in 1977. He served two tours in Vietnam; the second of whom he claimed to serve on behalf of Dick Cheney, who had other priorities in the '60s. His military career included time spent in numerous locations including Vietnam, France, Germany, Texas and Hawaii, with five years in France being his favorite. A.D. was awarded a Bronze Star for his service during the Vietnam War. Upon retirement from the U.S. Army, A.D. enjoyed 18 years of employment with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A.D. was very proud of his military service and so is his family.

Edwin Thomas Pogue

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1952-1955

Pogue was born in Muskogee in 1934 and raised in Checotah by his mother Judy Edith Wells Pogue and his grandmother Maud May Morgan. In 1942 the family moved to the west coast due to work availability caused by WWII. After graduating from high school in 1952 he joined the Army that December. Pogue was stationed at Fort Ord (CA), Fort Riley (KS), Fort Devins (MA), Arlington Hall (VA), and sent to Korea in 1953 and remained there as part of the Eight Army and "I" Corps in various locations until 1955 when he was assigned to Two Rock Base (Petaluma, CA) until his honorable discharge in 1955. Pogue received three medals in Korea: Presidential Unit Citation, United Nations service medal and Korean Presidential Unit Citation while achieving Staff of Sergeant rank. Currently retired from working in the prison system residing in Sutter Creek, CA.





Freeland Randall Powell (Butch)

Branch: U.S. Army

Years served: Unknown

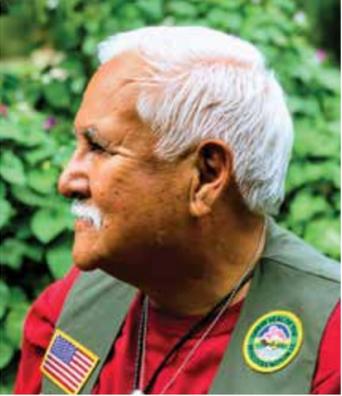
Powell was in the U.S. Army as a Private, first class.

Amos Rabbit

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1960-1962

Rabbit grew up in Dewar, OK and currently resides in Okemah, Oklahoma. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 52nd Infantry Regiment 1st Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas and Korea. Rabbit is honored to be a veteran and has taken pride in his voluntary services and over the years has continued to serve Muscogee Creek Nation as a self-taught artist. He has donated artwork for the Muscogee Nation Division of Health Pink Party shirts for many years and also provides the drawing for the first bronze statue that resides in front of the Muscogee Creek Nation VASO building, "Estofis Eknv Homvn Sapakleares" "Vkerricet Momen Sentvckvs". Rabbit also served his community as a volunteer at the Sunrise Fire Station and was the Vice President until 2018. Today, Rabbit spends his time reading, drawing, painting, and fishing and enjoys spending time with his family. Special Awards and Medals: Sharpshooter (Rifle).



Donnie Lee Simpson

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1965-1969

Simpson was born on July 26, 1945 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. His tribal town is Etlvw Rakko (Big Nation), his clan is bear, and his church is Apehkv Fellowship Church. Simpson enlisted in Oklahoma City, OK on Sept. 25, 1965 and served until Aug. 24, 1969 until he was honorably discharged. His basic training was at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and his advanced Army school training was at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts. Simpson belonged to Unit: Army Security Agency with the rank of Spec. 5 and Base: Det. K 17th ASA Field Station Shoeningen, Germany. His MOS was 059 Non-Morse Intercept Operator.

SSG John A Sloan

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: Unknown

Eufaula resident, Mvsokke veteran, and recipient of four purple hearts, SSG John A Sloan was offered to represent the Mvsokke Nation at the 100th Anniversary of WWI in Suresne, France on Nov. 11, 2018. Sloan honored four Mvsokke fallen soldiers who were never able to make their journey back to their homelands. Two were buried at the St. Michel Cemetery and two were at the Meuse-Argonne cemetery. At each grave an eagle feather and the Mvsokke Nation flag, Oklahoma state flag, and a United States of America flag were laid at their graves. The finale of the trip was an invitation to attend and be a member of the audience at President Trump's commemorative address at the Suresne Military Park. Sloan is deeply appreciative and forever grateful for the opportunity and proud to be a Mvsokke Veteran.



James Walker Smith III

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1967-1970

Smith was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on March 3, 1948 to Anna Mai Abdo an R.C. Smith. Anna Mai Abdo was the daughter of May Hodge an May Hodge was the daughter of Alvin Twitworth Hodge. Smith was drafted and served in Vietnam from 1967 to 1970. He served as a Tank Commander in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (known as the Black Horse). During his service, he achieved the rank of Sergeant, was awarded 3 Purple Hearts, 3 Bronze Stars, and 1 Commendation Medal. Additionally, he received a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his faithful performance of duty. Sergeant Smith, our family hero, never really talked much about his service, but when he did, he always revered and honored the fellow soldiers in his regiment and every other soldier whether he knew them or not. "It was a team effort."

Ken Taryole

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1966-1968

Taryole was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1966. He was stationed with the 1st Armored Division (Old Ironsides), Fort Hood, TX where he received basic training and Advanced Infantry Training in all areas of the M-48 armored tank. He was assigned overseas duty in the Republic of South Korea. He was stationed with the Eighth Army, HHC/1st BN, 72nd Armor Camp Rose Korea. He participated on various occasions in field exercises on the DMZ as a show of strength and support of U.S. Forces present in the area. Taryole was promoted to the rank of Sergeant (E-5), Tank Commander. He sustained a serviced connected injury and is now rated by the VA as a disabled veteran. Taryole was honorably discharged in January. He is of the Wind Clan and belongs to the Nuyaka Tribal Town.



RL Thompson

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 5 years

RL Thompson served 5 years in the Army and is a Korean War Veteran.

John Wadsworth

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: Unknown

John Wadsworth was born and raised in Hitchita, OK. Wadsworth volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army during WWII. Wadsworth's job was to care for and handle the mule trains which ran ammunition and supplies to the front lines. It was said that he cared more for his mules, than his own safety. Wadsworth bore one daughter and passed away circa. 1926. Pictured is Wadsworth standing with his parents and little brother.



Rex Watson

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1947-1951

In 1947 at the age of 15 Watson joined the Army-Air Corp straight out of Euclhee Boarding School. He did his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. After basic training he was assigned to Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois where he graduated from Parachute Rigger School. He then deployed to Adak Air Force Base, Aleutian Island, Alaska where he was a Parachute Rigger from Feb. 1948 to March 1949. In March 1949 he was deployed to Washington DC National Airport where he was assigned to 1254th Air Transport Squadron MATS. His job consisted of Emergency Equipment Inspector of all Air Force planes, as well as a parachute rigger. In Aug. of 1951 he was discharged at Bolling Air Force Base Washington D.C.

Eddie West

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1967-1970

West is the fifth child of eight children born to Hershel and Vera (Schneider) West of Hanna, OK. He enlisted in the US Army on March 5, 1967 and served in this capacity until March 1970. West joined the U.S. Army Reserve in a dual capacity as U.S. Army Reservist and worked full time as a technician for the 90th Army Reserve Command. West retired from the Reserves as Chief Warrant Officer and as WS09 Supervisor of Area Maintenance Activity 20(G) Broken Arrow, OK in December 2008. West married Shirley White of Henryetta, OK on June 6, 1970. They have two sons Rodney West married to Angela of Broken Arrow, OK and Bradley West married to Lacy of Coweta, OK. Ed has three grandchildren who are his pride and joy, Kyndell, Kinsley, and Kaiden West.



Christopher Winters

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: Unknown

Winters graduated from Barnsdall High School in Barnsdall, OK and had signed up for early enlistment into the U.S. Army. Winters started his career in the service as an Armor Crewman/Scout, after traveling through Europe he decided to re-enlist. Winters spent another tour as an Infantryman, NBC (Nuclear Biological & Chemical Warfare) Specialist, Marksman and an "OPFOR" (Opposing Forces) Team Leader. He met and married the love of his life after being stationed in Fort Lewis Washington; after a short honeymoon his life took off...they moved to Kansas (The First Infantry Division, Fort Riley), was selected for deployment and sent to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, then Iraq. Received the Bronze Star Medal, Army Accommodation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, National Defense Medal, Overseas Medal and Expert Qualification Badges for Pistol, Rifle, Master Driver - wheel / track, and Grenade.

Tom Yarholer

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1943-1945

Yarholer was born Dec. 13, 1916 and was from Okemah, OK. He was inducted in the Army on Jan. 21, 1943. Yarholer was PVT 1st Class, Company B 206th Engineer. He was Combat Battalion and Jack Hammer Operator 188. Yarholer was a Sharp Shooter- rifle. He earned EAME Theater Ribbon, four Bronze Service Stars, WWII Victory Ribbon. He was in Normandy - G - 033 - W045, Rineland - G - 0 - WD - 45, Northern Frances - G - 0 - 46 - WD-45, Central Europe-GO - 48. Yarholer passed away on Sept 4, 1997, he was 80 years old.



U.S. COAST GUARD

U.S. MARINE CORPS



Hugh Wesley Baker "Wes"

Branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Years Served: 1946-?

Baker was born Oct. 11, 1927 in Seminole, OK. He was the third eldest of 12 kids. After completing boot camp, Wes shipped out to Guam from Treasure Island Naval Station in October 1946. He was assigned, as an MP, to guard Japanese prisoners of war. He was then transferred to Japan as an MP and later, an upholsterer. He married his wife, Marie, on April 23, 1965. Even though he and Marie never had children, he had a daughter of his heart, his niece, Gina. Wes passed at the age of 84, in Okmulgee, on July 10, 2012.

"Let me state, now, that the Marine Corps has branded my heart and soul with the Marine Corps emblem; and when I walk the trail, my heart will still be true to the Marine Corps." -Wes Baker

Kellen Bible

Branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Years Served: 2006 - 2015

Kellen Bible attended Glenpool Public Schools and graduated high school in 2001. He received his undergraduate degree (2006) and graduate degree (2013) in Native American Studies from the University of Oklahoma. Kellen served on active duty as a Logistics Officer while deployed to Iraq and later as an Artillery Officer in Afghanistan while serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve.



Garret Brown

Branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Years Served: 2017- Current

Lt. Cpl. Garrett Brown is stationed at Camp Lejeune. He has been serving with the United States Marine Corps for over 17 months. He is the son of Randall and Krendy Brown of Prague and the grandson of Larry and Redonna Seaton of Paden. He is the 2017 Paden Salutatorian where he was active in basketball, baseball, robotics and FFA. He graduated from SSC in 2019 with honors before reporting for boot camp at MCRD in San Diego followed by specialized training in Missouri. He will be deployed in 2021 to Norway, Somalia and parts beyond. Upon completion of his duty, he will pursue a law enforcement career. He is a second generation Marine and fourth generation serviceman with his grandfather serving in the Army and his great grandfather in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He is Hotvlkve and the great-great grandson of original enrollees Rocky Cochran and Ollie (Grayson) Moody.

Lyle K. Deere

Branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Years Served: 1976-1979

Deere took pride in his heritage as a Muscogee (Creek) citizen and his service in the United States Marine Corps. Lyle joined the USMC upon his graduation from Muskogee High School at age 17. Lyle graduated boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, CA. He was stationed in Germany and in Okinawa, Japan. In his service from 1976-1979, he attained the rank of Lance Corporal and was awarded the Marine Corps Good Conduct, National Defense Service, Navy/Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbons, Rifle Sharpshooter, and Pistol Marksman Medals. Lyle was a strong voice and advocate for our Este Mvskokvlke. He enjoyed being around young people, sharing a meal with family and friends, and always enjoyed laughter and good fellowship. He was called home on January 30, 2011, at the age of 52 years. Semper Fidelis!



Albert Lee Harjo

Branch: U.S. Marines Corps

Years Served: 1956-1959

Harjo was a full blood Creek who was born in Hanna, Oklahoma on Sept. 25, 1937 to Mitchell Harjo and Louise Tiger. He had four brothers and two sisters. He attended Jones Academy, a federal Indian School in Hartshorne, Oklahoma and graduated from Chilocco Indian School near Ponca City, Oklahoma in 1956, where he enlisted in the United States Marines Corp and was honorably discharged in 1959. He had six daughters, 20 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren; 1 great, great-grandchild. Albert passed away on September 6, 2019. He was a great watercolor artist too.

Norman Alex Harjo

Branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Years Served: 1969-1971

Harjo was born on October 1, 1946 to Eugene and Suzanna Harjo in Henryetta, OK. He is full blood Creek citizen. Harjo graduated from Henryetta High School in 1964 and in 1969 graduated from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. In 1980, he earned a Masters of Science Degree in Adult Education from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK. Harjo enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1969 and served a tour of duty in Vietnam, He was honorably discharged in 1971. In 1973, he began working for the Creek Nation in the Adult Education Department. He also worked for the Summer Youth Program and Adult Vocational Services. Harjo retired in 1998 due to disability. He passed on Sept. 5, 2012.



Paul Michael Harjo

Branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Years Served: 1973-1975

Harjo was born on June 21, 1954 to Eugene and Suzanna Harjo in Okemah, OK. He is a full blood Creek citizen. He graduated from Sequoyah Indian School in 1973. He went on to graduate from East Central State University in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Recreation and Physical Education. Harjo enlisted in the Marine Corp in 1973 and was honorably discharged in 1975. He worked for the Tulsa Community College as a test monitor, recruiter, and tutor until he retired from college in 2012. Harjo married Darlene Meeks on November 28, 2009. They live in Sapulpa, OK where they enjoy gardening, making native crafts, and caring for their pets.

Tyler D. Lena

Branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Years Served: 2015-2019

Corporal Lena was born at Claremore IHS in 1994. His family name is Morgan. He graduated high school from Jones Academy in 2013, and in 2015 he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He successfully graduated from basic training in San Diego, CA. Corporal Lena was assigned to the 1st Battalion 12th Marines. He received his MOS training in artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In 2016 Corporal Lena reported to a Unit Deployment Program Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Oahu, Hawaii. He received orders in 2017 for Okanowa, Japan. Corporal Lena was honorably discharged Sept. 23, 2019.



William Lowe

Branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Years Served: 1993-2002

William Lowe attended the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Boarding School and graduated high school from Eufaula in 1992. He received his undergraduate degrees in Business Administration from Bacone College and received a Master's of Business Administration from Grand Canyon University in 2019. William served as an Infantryman in the United States Marine Corps from Sept. 1993 to May 2002 and is the only Muscogee (Creek) Citizen to be the Honor Graduate of the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Sergeant's Course.

Collin James McQuade

Branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Years Served: Unknown

McQuade is the great-great grandson of Rufus Berryhill of Henryetta Ok. He attended Nevada Union High School in Northern California. He was accepted into the Marines Corp his junior year and went to MCRD in San Diego CA after Graduation. He spent time at Camp Pendleton, Camp Fuji, Bridgeport cold weather mountain training, Vaernes Norway, and then to Camp Lejeune. After separation he attended Full Sail University in Florida receiving his BS in Game Design and awarded Valedictorian of his class. McQuade then went on to earn his Master's in Game Design



Donald Algin Wallace Jr

Branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Years Served: 24 years served

Following in the footsteps of his Great Uncle Joe Halley, Master Sergeant Wallace joined the Marine Corps in August 1995. Donald is the son of Georgia Coser Frye and Donald Wallace of Muskogee, OK. He is also the grandson of the late George and Stella Coser. His clan is Culv (Fox) and his tribal town is Cussetah. In Sept. 2004 President George W. Bush and the First Lady invited Wallace to the White House for a breakfast in conjunction with the grand opening of the American Indian Museum. Wallace retired in 2018 and resides with his wife Alfredda Wallace in N.C.

Joe Wesley Watashe

Branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Years Served: 1966-1981

Watashe was born March 12, 1947 in Claremore, OK to Jesse and Annie Watashe. He graduated from Kellyville High School in 1965. Watashe enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1966 and was honorably discharged in 1981 after serving 15 years. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam. Watashe received the Joint Service Commendation Medal and the RVN Meritorious Medal and the RVN Armed Forces Meritorious Unit Commendation Cross of Gallantry Award. He served as an Honor Guard for the tribe. Watashe attended church at Little Cussetah in Sapulpa, OK. His clan is turtle and he was a member of the Polecat Ceremonial Grounds in Kellyville. He passed away on Sept. 4, 2020.



U.S. NAVY



Robert J Baker (Kinkihee)

Branch: U.S. Navy

Years Served: 4

Baker Kinkihee served in the U.S Navy in WWII (Pacific), and Korea. He also served in the civilian transport service in Vietnam. He was a father to 7 children (Linda, Joyce, Bob, Bud, Eva, Kathy, and Lance) with his beloved wife Teresa. He was a grandfather, and a great grandfather. He loved to travel, especially to the sea which he loved so much, and to explore the backroads of the country. He loved to make people laugh, play poker, and sing karaoke (especially Troubadour by George Strait) at the local VFW where he spent years as chaplain. He instilled in his family the pride of being Muscogee and an American. He was a living example for all of how to honor and respect both. That pride lives on today within every life he touched. Okekv netv espoken netv hvthvyatkof, tehacakres.

Richard Bruner Jr.

Branch: U.S. Navy

Years Served: 1951-1956

Bruner was raised in the "Ragtown" community and moved to Holdenville in 1944. He transferred schools to Haskell Institute and attended from 1947-1951. Bruner was in the Navy from 1951-1956. He joined in Topeka, KS and had his physical exam in Kansas City, MO then to boot camp in San Diego, CA. Bruner served during the Korean War. He initially served on a destroyer and was later transferred to the Cruiser USS Bremerton (CA-130) as a deck sailor. However, since he had knowledge about guns from his time in the National Guard in OK and KS he became a 2nd Class Gunners Mate. In 1953 Bruner was transferred to the Sasebo, Japan ammunition depot. Bruner was wounded in action from a Korean fortified costal area when a shell hit the ship and exploded in close proximity. He was wounded again from stepping on a Punji stick trap.



Vern Courtwright

Branch: U.S. Navy

Years Served: 1968-1972

Courtwright received training at Great Lakes Naval Training Center. First stationed at U.S.S. Fort Mandan (LSD-21) Little Creek, VA., Sixth Fleet- area of operations: Atlantic, Caribbean, and Mediterranean. Courtwright's ratings include: Signalman E-4, General Quarters Station and first loader, 40 mm gun mount. Courtwright's second duty station was on the U.S.S. Orion (AS-18) U.S. Sixth Fleet in Charleston, SC. Courtwright was honorably discharged in Sept. 1972.

"I used to call my time in the service longest the four years of my life, in retrospect, it taught me discipline, respect, and pride. Qualities that have served me well my whole life, for which I will be forever grateful. Although my generation of veterans was vilified, disrespected, and treated as if we done something wrong, all we did was serve our country. I lost several friends in Vietnam and since then, from its after effects...which is why I spent 22 years serving with the Mvskeke Nation Honor Guard."

Calvin Foster

Branch: U.S. Navy

Years Served: 28 years

Foster grew up in Bristow, OK and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1992. Foster served as a Surface Warfare Officer on ships and shore commands and recently commanded the Reserve Littoral Combat Ship Squadron in Mayport, FL. Currently living in the Washington DC area, foster was honored to attend the White House Conference on Supporting Contemporary Native American Veterans in 2019. Foster left the event encouraged in the unity of Native American and Alaska Native Veterans in our nation's defense and greatly appreciate the President's commitment and support to our tribes and our veterans. Recently Foster has been working with the Navy to increase recruiting efforts for our tribe.



Henry Harjo Jr.

Branch: U.S. Navy

Years Served: 1968-1972

Henry Harjo Jr. is son of late Mary Jayne Harjo (Samuel) and Henry Harjo Sr., and late brother, Charles Harjo. Henry is a proud enrolled citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and tribal affiliation with Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Harjo is a United States Navy veteran formally assigned to Naval Security Intelligence Group from 1968 to 1972. He served aboard United States Ships - Palm Beach and Sellers. His military career included service tours and cruises to foreign seas and countries - Mediterranean Sea, Aegean Sea, Spain, Italy, Greece, Malta, Caribbean Sea, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guantanamo Bay Cuba, Scotland, England, and Southeast Asia. Harjo currently serves as a member/committeeman to Comanche Man Dance Society, Comanche War Scouts, Albuquerque War Shield and Gourd Society, Diver Control Specialist Instructor for Scuba Schools International, Sault Ste. Marie Elks, Masonic Lodge Edmond OK, and Scottish Rite of Guthrie OK.

Lewis Pernoskey Hill

Branch: U.S. Navy

Years Served: 1941-1944

Hill joined the Navy at a young age leaving behind his younger brother Billy. Hill was injured in the sneak attack by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor when he was blown off a ship. Six months later he wrote home and simply stated "December 7th, it was hell that day." Hill went on to fight battles in the Pacific. His last letter stated, "I sure do miss that brother of mine. Take good care of Billy. I don't think I will be back." The brothers never saw each other again. Hill died from an intracranial hemorrhage sustained in battle during WWII. He is buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, HI. He received five stars and metals including the American Campaign Metal and Asiatic-Pacific Campaign. Hill gave his life so our country could remain a free land.



Jack L. Sanders

Branch: U.S. Navy

Years Served: 1961 - 1970

Sanders is from Coweta, OK. He is BT2 - E 5 Retired Navy. He currently resides in Porter, OK. Looking back Sanders feels lucky that he was assigned to a war ship "The Richard S. Edwards DD950", nicknamed "The Ready Eddie". She took them to war and back home twice. During his time onboard the Edwards, he first went to the "Pocket Vest War" Quemery / Matsu Island off of mainland China in 1963. Second to "North Vietnam" (1964 - 1965) the Edwards served in "Desoto Mission". In 2005, it was de-classified. She (the ship) also patrolled Gulf of Tonkin. As a "Tin Can Sailor," Sanders feels special to have served.

Christie Shutlz

Branch: U.S. Navy

Years Served: 20 years

Schultz is sister to Ross and Erik. Christie served with honor during a mostly peacetime Navy, though she did serve briefly during the Desert Storm campaign as Home Guard. Christie was an Aviation Electrician, repairing guidance and instrumentation systems on various aircraft. She qualified as aircrew and in-flight technician, and was awarded many medals, among them Meritorious Unit Commendation. Her squadrons include VF-126 (Fleet Adversary, NAS Miramar)[Top Gun], and several other squadrons out of Moffett Field (Bay Area) and Whidbey Island, WA. She did two overseas tours to Diego Garcia, and visited many countries in her travels. She went on to earn a Master's in Psychology and is a proud mother and grandmother, and currently works as a teacher in Washington State.



Erik Schultz

Branch: U.S. Navy

Years Served: Unknown

Schultz was born in 1948, son to Willabel Hutchison (Willa was sister to Joe and Ross Hutchison). Erik served with honor during the Vietnam campaign as a SeaBee Engineering Assistant. He spent his time in service doing survey work on Okinawa, and in Gulfport, MS. Erik went on to earn a Civil Engineering degree at Cal Poly Pomona, and currently lives and works in Arizona. Schultz is married with grown children and grandchildren.

Ross Schultz

Branch: U.S. Navy

Years Served: Unknown

Schultz was born in 1950, son of Willabel Hutchison. Ross served with honor (in a combat zone, Gulf of Tonkin) during the Vietnam conflict. He was stationed aboard the USS Mispillion as a radar operator, refueling the battle group, which included the USS Oriskany, the USS Ranger, USS Kitty Hawk (aircraft carriers). Ross went on to study accounting (eventually earning his MBA) and currently works in Oregon as a city management consultant. He is also a proud grandfather with 5 children and 13 grandchildren.



James O. Wilde

Branch: U.S. Navy

Years Served: 1972-1980

Wilde joined in July 1972 and was honorably discharged in Jan. 1980 as Hospital Corpsman First Class Petty Officer: HM1 (E-6). Wilde attended boot camp at San Diego, CA then immediately into Naval Hospital Corps School in San Diego. He was assigned to the Naval Hospital Beaufort in Beaufort, SC. He worked for over a year in the hospital caring for and treating, at the physician's direction, the young Navy and Marine patients that required hospitalization. In May 1974 he transferred to lab assistant school in Portsmouth, VA then returned to Beaufort and worked in the lab and eventually became the POIC (Petty Officer in Charge) with intermittent duty in the ER as a medic. In Nov. 1977 Wilde received orders to advanced lab training for a year and then was assigned to Bethesda, MD. Wilde was released/honorably discharged on Jan. 17, 1980.

Richard E. Wilde

Branch: U.S. Navy

Years Served: 1970-1974

Richard is the second son of the late James O. Wilde and Kathryn Nell Bible Wilde Jones. Brother to James O. Wilde, Jr., Karen D. Wilde, and the late Rev. David Lee Wilde. Nephew of Lucille Bible Miller and Robert "Bear" Bible, the late Mary Louise "Roxie" Bible Lowe, Shirley Bible Kelly Thomas, David Eugene Bible, and Betty Jo Bible Bush. Maternal grandparents, David "Dave" Bible and Leona Grayson Bible Bemo.

Great grandson of Lewis Bible and Mulsie Chisholm Chalakee. Great grandson of Henry Grayson and Maggie Drew Grayson. Following high school graduation Wilde enlisted and served during the Vietnam era conflict. The ships he served on were not deployed to the coast of Vietnam; however, the ships he served upon were ready and if the need arose to be deployed to Vietnam. Wilde was considered a cold war veteran during his service.





Christopher Yargee

Branch: U.S. Navy

Years Served: 1989-1992

Yargee is son to Melissa Harjo- Moffer and Lymon Yargee Sr. Yargee. He is from the Alabama Quassee ceremonial grounds and is bird clan. Yargee entered the Navy as soon as he finished high school. He was 18 years old and served from 1989-1992 and came home in January 1993. Yargee resides in Ada, OK where he works as a body man and painter at Wayne's Precision Body Shop. He has 6 kids (Matthew, Christina, Marissa, Jessica, Mahaya and Alisha) and 12 grandkids with 1 on the way. He enjoys fishing, attending stompdances, making arts and crafts, spending time with his grandkids, as well as other family and friends.



ANONYMOUS TIP LINE

918.777.3429



MULTIPLE BRANCHES



Robert Harley

Branch: US Marines

Years Served: 1939-1947

Branch: US Army

Years Served: 1948-1963

Robert Harley joined the Marines at the age of fourteen. He passed away August 9, 2019. Harley was born at Oklahoma City December 12, 1925. He proudly served in the military 22 years. He was a retired military veteran, who served proudly in the Marines from June 1941 to May 1947. He served overseas in the Pacific on Guadalcanal during World War II. He was also in the United States Army from July 1948 to March 1963 where he was one the "Frozen Chosen" during the Korean War. He received the Bronze Medal of Honor there. He attended school at Euchee Indian School.

Clifford Lewis

Branch: U.S. Army

Branch: U.S. Air Force

Years Served: 1961-1965

Lewis is a member of the Oklahoma National Guard, Company M, 180th Infantry, 45th Division in Eufaula, OK, 2 years and the U.S. Army Reserve in Lawrence, Kansas, 2 years. He retired as a major from the Oklahoma City Fire Department, served 27 years. He graduated from Eufaula High School, diploma, 1957, Haskell Indian Junior College, associate degree, 1961, University of Central Oklahoma, Bachelor of Arts, 1972. In the Air Force, he served on Johnston Island in Operation Dominic, during the atomic testing and is considered an Atomic Veteran. He served in South Korea. During his employment with the OKCFD he worked in the Fire Marshal's office as a Fire/Arson Investigator. Attended many schools, including National Fire Academy, Okla. City Police academy and A.T.F. Advanced Explosive Academy. Past President of the State Retired Firefighters, Commander of State Atomic Veterans, member of Mvskoke (Creek) Nation Honor Guard, Tribal town- Chiah; Clan- Tiger. He is a member of the American Legion and VFW.



Jackie Lee Little

Branch: U.S. Marine Corps.

Branch: U.S. Army

Years Served: 1968-1971

Little was inducted in the Marines in 1968. He was a Combat Veteran and earned the Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, and was in Da Nang Vietnam 1969 through 1970. Little discharged from the U.S. Army in 1971.

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