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# MVSKOKE NEWS

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## TULSA CELEBRATES INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY AT DREAM KEEPERS PARK

ANNUAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS THE "WEAVING A LEGACY" EVENT

by **MEREDITH JOHNSON**  
REPORTER

TVLSE, Okla. - Hundreds of people celebrated Indigenous People's Day at Dreamkeepers Park in Tulsa on Monday, Oct. 9. The event, hosted by the Greater Tulsa Indian Affairs Commision, highlighted the presence, influence, and perseverance of the Indigenous communities throughout the Tulsa area. The 2023 theme was "Weaving a Legacy."

The annual celebration kicked off with opening remarks from local and tribal leaders.

In a speech to the crowd, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill stated, "Today, we no longer celebrate discovery... We celebrate survival. We celebrate cultures that wouldn't cave-in to colonization. We celebrate generations that resisted genocide. We celebrate people who were removed, and then rebuilt...It's an honor to stand here today with fellow tribal leaders, who carry the same responsibilities as we do.

Our reservation boundaries joining together here in this city leaves us certain that the success we've all shared here is no coincidence; we are better when we are together."

In his speech, Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Hoskin, Jr. stated, "This is a great day. There is progress afoot as Indigenous Peoples' Day is celebrated across the United States. Any Indigenous Peoples' Day in this country has to also look back at the history of this country...Recognizing that history is something we have to do in this country. If we don't do it, folks, they will forget. And there's some people in this country that simply want to forget. But we're not going to let them forget."

The parade kicked off soon after, and featured parade marshal Dana Tiger (Creek). Tiger stood in for screenwriter and director Sterlin Harjo (Creek) who was absent from the event due to a family emergency. Tribal leaders from the Osage Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and Cherokee Nation followed. The MCN Women's Honor

Guard came after with MCN royalty, Chenoa Barnett and Georgia Harjo, behind.

Local community groups and organizations like the Tulsa Indian Community, the OSU Indian Alumni Association, and Tulsa Tech walked the route.

Many secondary school groups also took part in the parade. Student associations from Broken Arrow, Tulsa Public Schools, Talaquah and Catoosa walked behind floats or banners.

The sound of marching band music waxed and waned as students from Owasso, Sequoyah and other area schools marched the route. All the while, plenty of candy was tossed to the eager crowd along the parade path.

After the parade, cultural demonstrations and exhibitions took center stage at the park with performances by groups including the Cherokee Choir and Rising Buffalo Dancers.

The performance area was outlined with the stands and stalls of Indigenous artisans and crafts-



Students from Tulsa area schools walk in the 2023 Indigenous Peoples' Day "Weaving a Legacy" Parade. (MM File)

people. Local community organizations such as the Indigenous Food and Agricultural Innitiative and Mission 22: United in the War Against Veteran Suicide had tents as well.

In comments to Mvskoke Media, Chief Hill stated,

"The importance of celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day is very important and I'm glad they changed it. As I said, to know that our struggles that we had on the trail of tears to come here, this is where our tree still stands, our Council Oak is still growing strong roots. We're here and we're

not leaving."

When asked what he was looking forward to, Second Chief Del Beaver replied,

"Seeing everyone here, you see your friends here, from your nation, not from your nation. So you just see everybody here and really that's what it's about. Being around your people and your friends and really that's what we're all about. It's about community and so when we get outside of our nation, we're a community as a whole, all Indian people. We're all friends here, we're just enjoying each other's company."

## MVSKOKE SIBLINGS TAKE OVER COMPETITION AND WIN RESPECTIVE CHAMPIONSHIPS

ZADIE AND TURBO FENTON BOTH WIN IN HORSE AND ENDURANCE RACING



Turbo (Left) and Zadie (Right) are pictured with their trophies won from their respective endurance racing and horse racing championships. (Photo courtesy: Lance Fenton)

by **SHAYLN PROCTOR**  
REPORTER

TYLER, Texas.- Zadie and Turbo Fenton (Mvskoke) are siblings who are now championship winners. Zadie, who is 12 years old, has won the Arabian Horse Championship twice this year. Her brother Turbo, who is 16 years old, won the 2023 Western Endurance Racing Championship in California.

When the siblings received their respective awards, they were both happy and excited to win first place. "I was so happy because I really accomplished what I was working towards," Turbo said.

Both siblings have pursued their respective passions for years, and are excited to see

what lies ahead within their divisions. Both have been training and practicing diligently to reach their goals and achievements.

Zadie has been training with horses since she was eight years old. She enjoys spending time with them, and enjoys learning new things while also meeting new people.

Turbo has been racing for three years now. His interest in racing came from his father. "He races and I kind of always thought that was a really cool sport," Turbo said.

Zadie has friends and family that participate in the Arabian Horse arena. As for Turbo, it is rare for him to see his friends

race since it is an entirely different sport.

Preparation through training can be challenging for both siblings. "It's getting to know the horse in a matter of time so you're able to show it and you have to kind of know what you are doing. You have to have a lot of practice to be able to hop on a horse and you have to figure out how it works," Zadie said. Zadie currently has a half-Arabian horse, one she has owned for seven months now.

For Turbo, endurance racing requires a lot of preparation as well. He uses a racing car simulator to help him prepare and become familiar with what the race track is going to look like.

The siblings both have trainers. Turbo's coach has been racing for years. They help Turbo with his diet, and with exercise. They also give pointers when Turbo is on the track.

### Dedication and Passion

Training schedules depend on the day of the week. For Zadie, she practices after school every Monday, Friday and sometimes Saturday. Turbo tries to practice five times out of the week on the race simulator. "Since we will be strapped in a car with G-Force which is taking a side toll on your body, so in the endurance aspect of this racing, I try to do gym exercises and running," Turbo said.

Turbo is currently run-

### FENTON SIBLINGS

Continued on Page 2

## CONSTRUCTION ON MAJOR HIGHWAY KICKS OFF MCN TRIBAL MASTER PLAN

FEDERAL ROADS DEPARTMENT OVERSEEING ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION



Construction is underway along the busy Highway 75. (Morgan Taylor/MM)

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**  
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - Heading north on Highway 75 lies road construction projects that run through the Capital of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation: Okmulgee. Large industrial trucks and cranes can currently be seen operating directly west of the tribal complex. Although it can be hard to tell what the final product will look like now, this is all part of the tribe's three-phase master plan to make improvements to the complex.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Federal Roads Manager David Ford said construction should be completed soon. While construction can cause delays for motorists now, it will not be that way forever.

"We should be off the road and out of everybody's hair by mid or the end of November," Ford said.

The plan was designed by FSB Architects and Engineers. The firm's website contains renderings that show how the landscape of the complex will change once the master plan is finished. The finished product will not only bene-

fit the tribe, but the city it resides in as well. According to the FSB Architects and Engineers website,

"The Tribal Master Plan is intended to establish the best way forward for the long-term development of tribal properties and to assist with long-term capital improvement planning, while also focusing on addressing current and future space needs and developing Okmulgee as a tourist destination through the planning of numerous exciting outwardly-focused facilities and activities."

The ten year plan includes a new grand entry directly off of Highway 75. A new main annex building will be constructed. It will include parking lot additions and reconstructions, which will ultimately upgrade the tribal complex.

The roadway project is the first step of the grand entrance that will undergo the new construction phases. Although it does not look like much now, the final result will provide easier access to the complex from the highway.

"It looks like we are just digging the ground up and putting

### MASTER PLAN

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OKMULGEE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY 2023 CELEBRATES NATIVE CULTURE

TERRA BEAVER AND BRENDA GOLDEN ORGANIZED HYMN SINGING, SPEAKERS AND MEALS



Mvskoke Lady Legends provide remarks during the introduction. (ShayIn Proctor/MM)

by SHAYLN PROCTOR  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla.- The Okmulgee Indigenous Peoples' Day was held at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council house on Oct. 9. The day was filled with different vendors, guest speakers, fellowship and fun for attendees. The purpose of the day is to gather together the community to celebrate Native cultures and their resiliency.

Terra Beaver (Mvskoke) and Brenda Golden (Mvskoke) set up this event together. This year marks their seventh year of celebrating Indigenous People's Day in Okmulgee. Golden founded the annual celebration in Okmulgee, Beaver would later join her in hosting duties.

This event featured the Mvskoke Lady Legends serving a free meal, different vendors, Mvskoke hymn singing, a Native fashion show and performers.

This year the event saw between 500 to 600 attendees that came out to celebrate. Event coor-

dinators do not necessarily keep a headcount, but they base the numbers from meals served, as well as to-go boxes that were handed out.

"It's gotten so big and it's a really good turnout. It's growing," Beaver said.

Seven years ago when the event started in Okmulgee, Golden would bring water and food. From there, that is when the Mvskoke Lady Legends wanted to get involved to help prepare food and serve.

"They did all the shopping for the meals, and all of the ladies kind of did the traditional serving free meal," Beaver said. "People always can't turn down a free meal."

Guest speakers and performers were an open call. Event organizers sought Mvskoke citizens to perform, however the call was open to all Native Americans, regardless of tribal affiliation.

Golden coordinated the food donations, including donations from different sponsors, and volunteers. Beaver handled the sign

ups of the live performances, guest speakers and vendors.

The event requires two different meetings; one for preparation and one with the Mvskoke Lady Legends for food. Next year, organizers are wanting the community to become more involved with planning for the event.

Speakers and Vendors

Some of the guest speakers at this year's event were MCN National Council Representative Galen Cloud, Brittney Cuevas, Rita Williams and Grover Wind. "The speakers and performers that came out to see them and celebrate, that is what made a great Indigenous Peoples' day in Okmulgee," Beaver said.

Vendors that were present had to get a tax permit to set up shop. The event not only featured tribal program booths, but also state programs such as the Oklahoma Foster's and the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services.

This year featured the second time for the fashion show. Citizens were welcome to model clothing, there was not any requirement to participate. Nelson Harjo Sr. played the flute while participants strutted down the runway.

"I do an open call, inviting people to participate and we roll out their card with a name, tribe of where they are from, or if they want to announce the artist that they are wanting," Beaver said. "I just really love that part, because some are shy but by the time they are done they're like 'it's not too bad'".

This year's event sponsors included first-time sponsor East Central Electric, MCN Second Chief Del Beaver, and MCN National Council Speaker William Lowe.

Porter Public Schools acted as a personal sponsor, and brought students to participate and volunteer.

"Usually when we take down the event that's where people there are eager to help," Beaver said.

MCN also sponsored the event by appropriating \$2,000 in funds toward meals and utensils. "We are very grateful for that," Beaver said.

One of the participants, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Eastern Chapter President Abbie Harjochee (Mvskoke) had a great time at this event and was glad to take part in the event as well.

"We got to show who we are as people as Indigenous people, we got to speak our voice and where we come from," Harjochee said. "To me it's letting the world know who we are and where we come from as Indigenous people and what our ancestors endured in the past."

Talking about what the day is truly about, Beaver knows it involves recognizing trauma and struggles. However, in spite of adversity she believes the event acts as a time to heal through celebration. "There is a lot of grief and loss we face as Native people dealing with it in different ways. This helps with connection and support, it's more of a healing time," Beaver said.

Beaver had a great time seeing everyone come out, particularly to see them laughing and enjoying each other's company.

"We are Native people that are still here, rising and growing into the future," Beaver said.



Mvskoke citizens line up ready for lunch. (ShayIn Proctor/MM)

FENTON SIBLINGS

Continued from Page 1

ning in an endurance race. He recently finished an endurance series where he drove a Honda Civic Type R. According to Turbo, that is a street car that has been turned into a racing car. Eventually he wants to step into a Ligier JS2 R.

Zadie idolizes her horse trainer. "She's been pretty successful and I just want to be able to do what she does," Zadie said.

Turbo has always looked up to his father. He mentioned how they are alike, sharing the same hobbies like car racing. He teased about going up against his father in a race. "I'm always trying to be better than him," Turbo said. In terms of looking up to more famous figures, Turbo admires Travis Pastrana. He views him as an "all around action sport guy". Turbo has watched Pastrana participate in dirt bikes racing, car racing and other sports.

**Racing All Over the Country**

Zadie has traveled all over,

including Oklahoma. The furthest she has traveled is Scottsdale, Arizona. She won the Arabian Horse Championship in Oklahoma City. Zadie wants to win two more championships within her division with her current two horses.

As of right now, Turbo is running two series. One is a 30 minute race which is set at a faster pace and takes place in Oklahoma. The other is an endurance race, which can last anywhere from two to six hours. The endurance race takes place in states like California and Utah.

Turbo's end goal is to drive fast enough where he can receive calls from anybody to say, "hey come race this car at this place". Turbo stated that in the meantime he is looking to physically and mentally prepare for any race that comes his way.

"It is kind of a dangerous sport but it really gets you going and it gets you energized and everything like that," Turbo said. "If you were to try to get into it, I would say just make sure you are devoted, make sure you really love it because it's a fun sport and it

can really help clear your mind whenever you get going, just work for it and it'll pay off."

Zadie agreed with her brother's advice. "You just have to find a good trainer that can make you better so you can be more successful when you're older," Zadie said. "You have to know what you're trying to get to so you have to find the energy to be able to go out and just ride horses all the time so you'll get better."

Both receive support from friends and family for their hobbies.

Zadie and Turbo's father, Lance Fenton, said he enjoys watching his children pursue their respective passions. He wants them to be more familiar with their Mvskoke roots, and become involved with the environment and their heritage.

"It's really humbling for me to be able to take them to all of these different places around the country and expose them to different people with different perceptions. So I feel really blessed that I get to do that and watch them grow and learn while they are passionate about the hobby that they are participating in," Lance said.

MASTER PLAN

Continued from Page 1



A pile of dirt and a sign with a rendering of a new tribal building sits on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex. (Morgan Taylor/MM)

boxes in there," Ford said.

The boxes however, are actually a part of a two million dollar drainage system that will properly dispose of water runoff.

The project will beautify the

road site by placing in a new drainage system, as well as adding in landscape and vegetation.

"This will fix the exposed lines along the road from being washed out and make it more appealing to the eye," Ford said.

Ford understands the project is directly affecting traffic, but assures highways drivers, tribal and non-tribal that there will be a significant benefit to the community as a whole once construction is completed.

To learn more about the MCN's Master Plan, and to see renderings of the completed project, visit: fsb-ae.com.

MVSKOKE HONOR GUARD



Pictured are members of the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard. Front Row: Daniel Littlebear (Army), Buster Bear (Army), Michael Wesley (Army), Thomas Yahola (Army), John Melton (Marines), Jesse Givens (Army). Middle Row: Monte Randall (Navy), Jack Stafford (Air Force), Eddy Screechowl (Army), Duane Sells (Army), William Wind (Navy), Curtis Smith (Marines), Harold Yahola (Army). Back Row: Bob Kilcrease (Army), Arlo Mosco (Army), Clem George (Army), and Loy Thomas (Navy). Full Story on page 8.

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call: 918-732-7720 or email: [info@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:info@mvskokemedia.com).



LEADERSHIP, MEDIA COVERAGE, THANKSGIVING

TRUTHS ABOUT THANKSGIVING, CHOCTAW TV GUY; MOVIE AND TV



by **GARY FIFE**  
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The first round of voting is over and the final chance to decide who’s running this Nation is coming up later this month. After that, it’s too late to moan and whine about how things are going.

The two positions, Principal Chief and Second Chief won by wide margins, returning them to office. Voters will choose between candidates for Creek District Seat A and Okmulgee District Seat A in the runoff on Nov 4. Too late for this column, but what the heck, I thought I’d mention it anyway.

Four tribes are considering legalizing the use of recreational marijuana - smoking weed for fun - on their reservations. On Friday, North Carolina Congressman

Chuck Edwards (R-NC) introduced the “Stop Pot Act”, Native News Online reports. The legislation was introduced to halt the distribution of federal funds to tribes that legalize the drug, except for medical purposes. The Eastern Band of Cherokees is considering such a medical project, but it does have opposition like Edwards.

The tribal chief says, “a non-Indian, elected official telling a sovereign tribal nation how they ought to handle their business” is overstepping his authority. Essentially, the tribe is saying, ‘mind your own business.’”

The sad story of Native children who died at boarding schools has recently found a bright spot. Two Lakota boys who died at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania were brought home after more than 144 years.

Native News Online reported that there is another estimated 161 unmarked graves at Carlisle.

Hey, did you know that there’s a Native guy on local TV? On channel 8? Dr. Christopher Nunley has Choctaw ancestry passed down from a family that practiced their Choctaw heritage. In an article by Mvskoke Media’s Braden Harper, Nunley was quoted as saying, “I do feel like our population is underserved and I hope I can make an impact.” As KTUL Chief Meteorologist, he has the chance to do just that. I just hope we don’t ever hear any bad jokes about “rain dances”. It doesn’t sound like that will be happening.

Although the big Hollywood movie about the Osage loss is commanding all the headlines, there is much more to that story. Creek lands and oil was lost to the

same kind of thieves. “Between Two Fires” tells that story in a fictional remembrance of the story behind those losses. Author J.D. Colbert is a Creek from Tulsa.

There is some thanks to be given to local media for their coverage of Native issues as of late. Both KOTV and the Tulsa World have provided extensive pieces on the movie about the Osages, but there has been a lot of attention given to “Reservation Dogs”, and other Native issues. Let’s hope they keep it up and give more recognition to our communities that have been living next door to each other for a pretty long time.

Did you get the chance to finish Reservation Dogs? Sterlin Harjo did a great job in wrapping up the various stories, and not having an ending. There was the virtual ‘who’s who’ of Native acting talent in that episode. On top of the well-deserved recognition and honor the series has already won, Native News Online reports that the Hollywood Reporter has named the contemporary Native story TV series as number six on its list of “the best television shows of the 21st century, so far”.

The Thanksgiving Holiday is approaching and everyone is looking forward to the penwv (turkey)

dinner. In the last few years, a re-examination of that event has shared a few ideas that burst the bubble of romanticism about the day. The Wampanoag people used the dinner as a way of making an alliance against neighboring tribes whom they warred against. The stories handed down seemed to forget the wars and slavery.

Another idea that really annoys me is the depiction of a friendly meal shared by all. Nope, the Wampanoags are sitting on the ground and not allowed to join the Pilgrims at a table because the Pilgrims thought they were heathens. Nope, again to having turkey as the main course. Historians and tribal people told me years ago that the meal was most likely venison. By the way, that first feast didn’t start the holiday tradition, President Abraham Lincoln declared it a holiday during the Civil War to promote unity, says Smithsonian Magazine. Enjoy your penwv and football.

Hvtvm.

Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation or Mvskoke Media.



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OBITUARIES

IRENE SUE WILSON



Irene Sue Wilson passed away Wednesday, October 18th, 2023 at her home in Eufaula, Oklahoma at the age of 79.

Irene was born May 26, 1944 in Talahina, Oklahoma

to Charley Harrison and Lillie (Walters) Harrison. She attended Holdenville Public Schools. Irene married Jake Wilson and was a homemaker. She was a member of the Rock Springs Baptist Church in Sasakwa. Irene enjoyed sewing, ceremonial dances, watching old westerns, yard sales, going to Walmart, bingo and scratch cards. She loved spending time with her grandkids and family.

Irene is preceded in death by her parents, Charley and Lillie Harrison, husband Jake Wilson, son Eddie Hicks, granddaughter Lacey Stallin, brothers; Willie Harrison, Sam Harrison, and sister Helen Fish. She is survived by her children Ella Adcock and husband David of Longtown, OK, Sallie Stallin of Shawnee, OK, five grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, sisters; Lizzie Harjo of Sasakwa and Johnnie Mae Adkins of Okmulgee. Irene is survived by numerous

other relatives and friends.

A viewing was held 1:00 pm-2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at Hudson-Phillips Funeral Home in Holdenville, Oklahoma.

A funeral service was held 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at Hudson-Phillips Funeral Home Chapel. Brother Paul Fixico and Bill Foster officiated.

Honorary Pallbearers: Coty Adcock, Lindell Stallin, Jayden Hobbs, Cash Hobbs, Ryder Spearman and Leland Brown.

Active Pallbearers: J. D. Harley, Richard Beaver, Patrick Bear, Wesley Bear, Billy Rae Harley, Speedy Harley of the Muddy Water Ceremonial Grounds.

Interment followed at Rock Springs Church Cemetery in Sasakwa.

Services were under the direction of Hudson-Phillips Funeral Home in Holdenville, Oklahoma.

A THANK YOU  
MESSAGE FROM MCN  
PRINCIPAL CHIEF  
DAVID W. HILL



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill won a second term as Principal Chief in the 2023 MCN Election Primary. (Courtesy: David Hill)

Mvto for being engaged with our tribal elections and helping frame the future of our nation.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has a long and proud history, and if we want to ensure that our future generations have a strong nation, we must all do our part. That starts with each of us being engaged with our tribe.

I am very honored and humbled to serve as your Principal Chief, I pledge to you

I will continue to do everything I can as chief to move our nation forward.

I ask that you join me and get involved with our tribe. Together we will make the Muscogee (Creek) Nation stronger than ever, Mvto.

Sincerely,  
Chief David W. Hill

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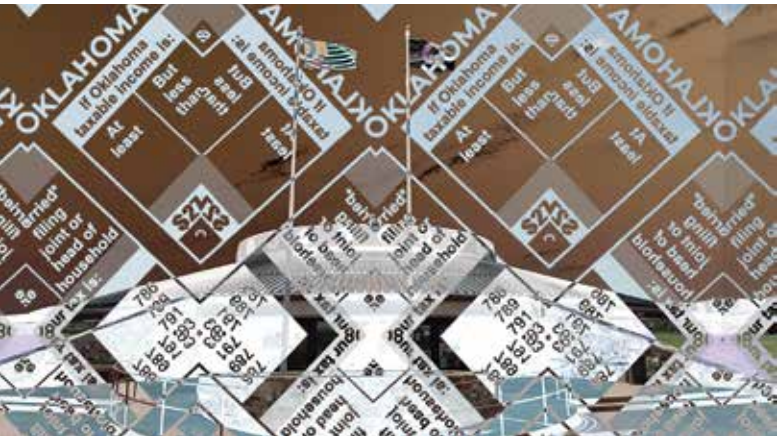
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# ORAL ARGUMENTS IN STROBLE TAX CASE SCHEDULED

OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT WILL HEAR THE CASE NEXT YEAR



Alicia Stroble (Mvskoke) is a Muscogee (Creek) Nation employee who has taken the State of Oklahoma to court over paying state income taxes as a Native American citizen who resides within the jurisdiction boundaries of her tribe. (MM File)

by JERRAD MOORE  
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. - Oral arguments have been scheduled for January 17, 2024 at the Oklahoma Supreme Court in the Stroble Case regarding state income tax. Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council employee Alicia Stroble is seeking a refund of back income taxes from the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

Oklahoma law states that, "The income of an enrolled member of a federally recognized

Indian tribe shall be exempt from Oklahoma individual income tax when: (1) The member is living within "Indian Country" under the jurisdiction of the tribe to which the member belongs" On April 12, 2022, an Oklahoma Tax Commission administrative law judge ruled in favor of Stroble, because she had proven that she worked for the tribal government and lived in Okmulgee County. The commission overruled the decision which led to the case being placed before the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Oral arguments are set to be heard at 10 a.m. on January 17, 2024 at the State Capitol.

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## TRIBAL AND STATE PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS THE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS COLLABORATE TO HOST PLANT ID WORKSHOP



Blane Stacy with the OK Conservation District guided participants at the Euchee Butterfly Farm in Bixby, Okla. (Morgan Taylor/MM)

by MORGAN TAYLOR  
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

BIXBY, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Conservation District and the Oklahoma Conservation District partnered together to host a Plant Identification Event at the Euchee Butterfly Farm. According to MCN Conservationist Julie Norem, the department hosts the event annually to help bring awareness to communities about vegetation specific to their area. Collin Spriggs (Cherokee) is the farms' program coordinator. Spriggs helped organize the plant identification event. Spriggs said the main purpose of the event is to expose as many people as possible to the plants that grow in their region. "It brings awareness," Spriggs said. Norem said similar vegetation has been found across the reservation, but some areas do vary. She said she enjoys the event as a refresher. "It reminds me of the plants that I can't think of when I see them," Norem said. "Sometimes I see them and can't remember the names." A part of Norem's job is responding to citizens, and iden-

tifying plants that reside on their property. "I do a lot of field visits," Norem said. The open-door communication between the agencies helps to bridge any gaps. "If I need to, I can always contact the Natural Resource Conservation Service," Norem said. According to Spriggs, plant identification has helped the butterfly farm diversify the plant species population. "The South field was a monoculture of broom sedge," Spriggs said. Through a long process and supplemental restoration planting, it became more diverse. According to Spriggs, the diversity in foliage is particularly helpful for butterfly and bee species who often become "specialists" and only have certain reactions with certain plants. "Diverse begets diversity," Spriggs said. With diverse plants, brings more diverse insects, then birds, and so on. "Therefore, up the tropic ladder," he said. The MCN Conservation District can help citizens with similar needs. "We encourage any citizen with land to contact our office and see what we can offer," Norem said. For more information, call 918-549-2609.

# GRANT FUNDS FOR EUFAULA DORMS, DOH AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PASSES COMMITTEE

FUNDS PASSED TO HIRE LEGAL SERVICES FOR MCN REINTEGRATION



The MCN National Council held a Health, Education and Welfare committee session via teleconference and in person. (MM File)

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held a Health, Education and Welfare committee meeting Oct 11. The Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills: TR 23-101 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a legal services contract between the MCN Reintegration Department and Cody Minyard, Attorney at Law, PLLC. Representative Robert Hufft sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0. This will be presented to the full council at the regular session. According to the bill, the MCN Reintegration Department has chosen Cody Minyard Attorney at Law, PLLC for the purpose of securing legal services at their office. In order for Minyard to provide these services, the Nation has prepared a contract within their terms. NCA 23-116 A law of the MCN authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Preven-

by SHAYLN PROCTOR  
REPORTER

vention Program. Rep. Crawford sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0. This will be presented to the full council at the regular session. This bill will expend \$3,048,161 from the grant. NCA 23-119 A law of the MCN authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Administration for Children and Families Office of Family Assistance for the benefit of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program. Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0. This will be presented to the full council at the regular session. This bill will expend \$3,114,662 from the grant. NCA 23-120 A law of the MCN authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Education for the benefit of the Eufaula dormitory. Speaker William Lowe sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0. This will be presented to the full council at the regular session. The bill will expend \$836,020 from the grant. NCA 23-131 A law of the MCN authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from The Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families for the benefit of the Center for Victim Services. Representative Anna Marshall sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0. This will be presented to the full council at the regular session. For more information visit, www.mcnncc.com.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election

GENERAL ELECTION

November 4th, 2023

ELECTION DAY

POLLING SITES

7AM - 7 PM

BRISTOW INDIAN COMMUNITY

710 S. Main / Bristow, OK

CHECOTAH INDIAN COMMUNITY

500 Owens Ave. / Checotah, OK

DEWAR INDIAN COMMUNITY

903 E. 6TH / Dewar, OK

DUSTIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

Intersection of Broadway Ave & Sparks Ave. / Dustin, OK

EUFAULA INDIAN COMMUNITY

800 Birkes Rd. / Eufaula, OK

GLENPOOL INDIAN COMMUNITY

13839 S. Casper / Glenpool, OK

HANNA INDIAN COMMUNITY

EAST Of HWY 52 on E. 1250 Rd. / Hanna, OK

HOLDENVILLE INDIAN COMMUNITY

224 E. Poplar. / Holdenville, OK

KOWETA INDIAN COMMUNITY

30925 E. 141 ST / Coweta, OK

MUSKOGEE INDIAN COMMUNITY

335 N. 4TH ST / Muskogee, OK

OKEMAH INDIAN COMMUNITY

1100 S. Woody Guthrie / Okemah, OK

Okmulgee Indian Community

2900 N. Osage PL. / Okmulgee, OK

SAPULPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

1020 N. Brown / Sapulpa, OK

TULSA INDIAN COMMUNITY

8611 S. Union / Tulsa, OK

TWIN HILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY

8110 N. HWY 52. / Okmulgee, OK

WELEETKA INDIAN COMMUNITY

602 S. Chickasaw / Weleetk, OK

WETUMKA INDIAN COMMUNITY

608 N. Creek / Wetumka, OK

YARDEKA INDIAN COMMUNITY

114089 S. 3980 Rd. / Henryetta, OK

EARLY VOTING SITES

7AM - 7 PM

November 1st & 2nd, 2023 (Each Day)

OKEMAH INDIAN COMMUNITY

1100 S. WOODY GUTHRIE. OKEMAH, OK

EUFAULA INDIAN COMMUNITY

800 BIRKES RD. EUFAULA, OK

OKMULGEE INDIAN COMMUNITY

2900 N OSAGE PL. OKMULGEE, OK

TULSA INDIAN COMMUNITY

8611 S. UNION. TULSA, OK

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ROADWAY RESOLUTIONS AND PUBLISHING AGREEMENT PASS LNC

DRIVEWAY PROGRAM ALSO RECEIVES INCREASE IN FUNDING



The Land, Natural Resource, and Cultural Preservation Committee held a meeting on Oct. 10. (MM File)

by MEREDITH JOHNSON  
REPORTER

MVSKOKE RESERVATION- On Oct. 10, the Land, Natural Resources, and Cultural Preservation Committee held a meeting. Legislation passed will go on to the regular session meeting unless otherwise noted.

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

**TR 23-102** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a publishing agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Springer Nature for publication of author’s contributions in a collected work provisionally titled “Covid-19 in Indian Country” passed with a vote of 4-0. It was sponsored by Representative Galen Cloud.

This resolution involves publishing research conducted by

the MCN Cultural Preservation Department. The publishing agreement entails a limited waiver of the MCN’s sovereign immunity from suit by Springer Nature Publishing. Springer is an international publishing house based in Switzerland that focuses on research and science.

**TR 23-103** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a separate memorandum of understanding with nine Oklahoma cities for the maintenance of roadways and associated rights-of-way constructed or improved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) passed with a vote of 4-0. It was sponsored by Representative Joseph Hicks.

The MCN TTP has funds available to make improvements on roadways that have been des-

ignated as TTP routes. These are located in the cities of Okemah, Clearview, Tulsa, Bixby, Weel-etka, Okmulgee, Haskell, Taft, and Coweta. The memorandum of understanding acknowledges that the cities will be responsible for maintenance of the roadways that will be constructed or improved.

**TR 23-104** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a separate memorandum of understanding with six Oklahoma counties for the maintenance of roadways and associated rights-of-way constructed or improved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal transportation program passed with a vote of 4-0. It was sponsored by Representative Charles McHenry.

Similar to the previous tribal resolution giving the principal chief authority to enter memoran-

dum of understanding with city entities over the MNC TTP, this resolution authorizes the principal chief to enter into memorandums of understanding with the following counties: Tulsa, Creek, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, McIntosh, and Seminole.

**TR 23-105** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a separate memorandum of understanding with three Oklahoma schools for the maintenance of parking lots and associated rights-of-way constructed or improved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation TTP passed with a vote of 4-0. It was sponsored by Rep. Cloud.

This authorizes the principal chief to enter into memorandums of understanding with Mason, Okemah, and Haskell schools with the agreement that the schools will be responsible for any improvements made to parking lots by the MCN TTP.

**TR 23-106** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the update of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation long-range transportation plan with the addition of the routes listed as attachment “A” – MCN National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory (NTTFI) 2024 passed with a vote of 4-0. It was sponsored by Rep. McHenry.

**TR 23-107** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation supporting the addition of new routes, as identified in attachment “A” – MCN NTTFI 2024, to the Nation’s existing NTTFI and requesting the Bureau of Indian Affairs add these new routes to the Nation’s NTTFI passed with a vote of 4-0. It was sponsored by Rep. Joseph Hicks.

**NCA 23-121** A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded in the amount of \$400,000 from the U.S. Environ-

mental Protection Agency (EPA) for the benefit of the Office of Environmental Services passed with a vote of 4-0. It was sponsored by Rep. Cloud.

The MCN Office of Environmental Services received a grant in the amount \$400,000 from the EPA for the Climate Pollution Reduction Program (CPRP). The grant will be used to hire an environmental specialist to develop a priority climate action plan. It will also allow for training, standard development, and the creation and dissemination of materials to raise public awareness of the program in addition to other duties.

**NCA 23-122** A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded in the amount of \$997,662 from the United States Department of the Interior for the benefit of the Office of Environmental Services passed with a vote of 4-0. It was sponsored by Rep. Joseph Hicks.

MCN Office of Environmental Services was awarded a Tribal Orphaned Wells Program Development Grant. The grant makes possible the hiring of two full-time staff members for the program, and the establishment of methodologies to measure and track methane and other gasses associated with orphaned wells. The grant will also allow for decommissioning/removing of pipelines, facilities, and infrastructure to remediate soil and restore the habitat.

**NCA 23-123** A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 38, Chapter 3 entitled “Tribal Driveways Program” passed with a vote of 4-0. It was sponsored by Rep. Galen Cloud.

The amendment adjusts the upper limit on driveways projects to \$6,000.

To view the full meeting, visit: mcnnc.com.

NATIONAL COUNCIL SEEKS LEGAL ACTION AGAINST CITY OF TULSA

LPD GRANT WILL FUND 13 NEW POLICE VEHICLES



A Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting was held at the Mound Building on Oct. 12 in Okmulgee, Okla. (MM File)

by MORGAN TAYLOR  
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held the monthly Business, Finance and Justice Committee session at the Mound Building on Oct. 12.

Passed legislation is subject to Full Council approval during the Regular Session.

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

**TR 23-108** Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a legal services contract between the MCN and Kanji & Katzen, P.L.L.C. Representative Randall Hicks sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

MCN has selected the law firm to provide outside legal counsel services for the Nation.

**TR 23-109** Establishing tribal membership in the National Congress of American Indians. Speaker William Lowe sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

Funds in the amount of \$30,000 will be paid in dues based on tribal membership status of 100,385 Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

**NCA 23-124** Authorizing the expenditure of the Department of Justice, Office Of Justice Programs Support for the Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program for the benefit of the MCN Light-

horse Department. Rep. Randall Hicks sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

According to the bill, grant funds of \$372,528 will expand and enhance the LPD Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act Program into a sustainable resource that will meet the needs of the Nation. It will also address the issues of sex offenders not registering when entering tribal property, and reach MCN citizens, other Native Americans and the general public.

**NCA 23-125** Authorizing a lawsuit to be filed in federal court in the name of the MCN seeking declaratory and injunctive relief against the City of Tulsa exercising unlawful jurisdiction within the boundaries of the MCN Reservation and appropriating funds for the action. Rep. Randall Hicks sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

According to the bill, the MCN National Council finds that it is in its best interest to initiate formal legal action against the City of Tulsa to prohibit the city from exercising jurisdiction for criminal offenses including traffic violations. Funds in the amount of \$500,000 have been appropriated.

**NCA 23-126** Authorizing the expenditure of funds for the MCN LPD for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services 2023 Cops Office Tribal Resources Program

- Equipment and Training. Rep. Randall Hicks sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

Grant funds of \$899,537 will be used for two employees to travel to the required CTAS New Grantee Orientation Training and purchase 13 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe pursuit vehicles with accessory packages.

**NCA 23-127** Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Internal Revenue Service for the benefit of the Office of the Secretary of the Nation. Rep. Randall Hicks sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

Grant funds of \$2,300 will be used to provide assistance in preparing income tax for individuals 60 and older in accordance with the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) grant.

**NCA 23-128** Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Internal Revenue Service Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program for the benefit of the Office of the Secretary of the Nation. Rep. Randall Hicks spon-

sored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

Grant funds of \$15,000 will be used to provide assistance in preparing income tax for individuals 59 and younger in accordance with the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Grant.

**NCA 23-129** Appropriating funds to the MCN Office of the Attorney General to host the Justice of the Reservation Conference Event. Representative Joseph Hicks sponsored the legislation, which passed 3-1.

The AG is requesting \$45,200 to host the event Feb. 26-27 at the River Spirit Casino and Resort in Tulsa, Okla.

The conference will provide training to LHPD officers, investigators, cross-deputized agencies and prosecutors throughout the Mvskoke Reservation on best practices regarding child abuse and sexual assault cases.

**NCA 23-130** Amending MCNCA Title 26, Chapter 2, 2-201. E, Entitled “Compensation”. Representative Thomasene Yahola Osborn sponsored the legislation,

which was postponed until the next BFJ meeting, 4-0.

The MCN District Court is requesting compensation for the increased workload of the MCN District Court Chief Judge and each district trial judge.

The committee responded to the request with a formal written explanation for justification purposes.

**NCA 23-132** Appropriating funds to the Office of the Attorney General to be used for a comprehensive update to the MCN Code Annotated Print and Electronic Version. Representative Mark Randolph sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

Funds of \$110,000 will be used toward the “Comprehensive Legal Resource Update Project” to update the MCN Code since its last update in 2010.

The Committee went into Executive Discussion to discuss the MNGE, Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise and the Muscogee International, LLC.

To view the full agenda, visit: mcnnc.com.



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SUBMISSIONS

Dear Fellow Mvskoke Citizens:

Before we get too far removed from the election on September 16, 2023, I want to take this opportunity to give a huge MVTO to all our wonderful citizens for taking the time and effort to participate in the forum process. I would like to say a big thank you to those who supported me, as your support meant so very much. It spurred me to have the courage to share what many of our citizens voiced what changes they want made.

I want to thank all the communities that hosted the forums and provided food. These were times to not only listen to the candidates, but also hear what changes they might bring to our governance. It was a time to fellowship with friends and relatives we may only see occasionally. The everyday practices of Mvskoke kinship and relationships were shown at each event. We are one huge community of loving and caring people. We do our best to look out for each other. We love sharing stories. Many good stories were shared with me. I will cherish these stories.

Although the outcome of the chief election was not as I had hoped, I continue to press forward, contributing my time, money and effort to causes that promote the betterment of our society. I continue to remain involved with our local community centers. I love playing chair volleyball. We play for fun. The laughter produced during the games is unbeatable. Winning is a positive side effect.

Bobby and I continue to assist our Mvskoke elders and others in need as much as possible. Our hearts are with and will always be with our Mvskoke people. I continue to represent our people as a citizen in various arenas. I am humbled when asked to be involved with events that involve not only our Mvskokvle, people but all Native people.

May our Creator continue to shine His blessings upon our people. I pray that our prayers are heard, and our people (Mvskoke people) will prosper economically, spiritually, and in health.

MVTO. Cehecvres.

Lahoma (Hicks) Schultz  
Former Candi-  
date for Chief 2023

NOTICE OF FILING PERIOD FOR ELECTION OF MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

To All Persons Interested:

Notice is hereby given that any person who is a Muscogee (Creek) registered voter and a resident of the Muscogee (Creek) boundaries of the MCN Conservation District and has entered into, or will enter into a Cooperator Agreement with the said District, may have their name placed on the official ballot of the District Commission Election of said District for “Seat C” - restricted landowner and “Seat E” - fee landowner by filing a Notification and Declaration of Candidacy with said District located at the MCN Housing building Room 220, or call 918-549-2609 between the dates of Nov. 2 - 21, 2023. Notification and Declaration of Candidacy forms may be obtained at the above location and must be returned to the same location before close of business on the last day of the filing period. The election will be held in December 2023.

VANESSA MORRISON

Vanessa Morrison, an award-winning urban planner, has agreed to serve as the new interim director of the Institute for Quality Communities. The appointment was announced by Gibbs College Dean Hans Butzer and made effective on Sept. 1, 2023.

According to Butzer, “Vanessa Morrison is the ideal choice for leading the IQC in this interim period. Her experience and expertise will nurture the existing commitments to our engagement partners, ensuring the IQC’s impact will continue to benefit communities across this great state of Oklahoma.”

Morrison previously served as the associate director of the IQC. Throughout her expansive career, she has led several nationally recognized projects related to equity, inclusion and the physical and cultural legacies of space. She has been featured on multiple platforms for her work, including Architecture Magazine’s Game Changer series, NPR Story Corps and the Library of Congress and Fast Company.

At Gibbs College, she engages students in a variety of hands-on social and environmental equity projects. During the spring 2023 semester, she led Environmental Design students in the creation of reuse design concepts for the historic Jewel Theater in northeast Oklahoma City. In 2021, she worked with EnD students to develop revitalization plans for local community members of Tullahassee, Oklahoma’s oldest surviving Black township.

Morrison expressed her excitement for her new role, “An unshakeable foundation has been built over the years that has positioned the IQC to continue its strong mission in serving Oklahoma communities and students. I’m honored to work alongside our amazing team in a leadership role during this period of transition and great opportunity.”

ROCK YOUR MOCS 2023

BY: VICKI TATE

The Rock Your Mocs event takes place the week of Nov. 12-18. November is National Native American Heritage Month. The Rock your Mocs Event is a positive opportunity to be united and celebrate tribal individuality by wearing moccasins. We honor our ancestors, and Indigenous people worldwide, during Rock Your Mocs events and commemorate National Native American Heritage Month. The Rock Your Mocs event takes place the week of Nov. 12-18. November is National Native American Heritage Month. The Rock your Mocs Event is a positive opportunity to be united and celebrate tribal individuality by wearing moccasins. We honor our ancestors, and Indigenous people worldwide, during Rock Your Mocs events and commemorate National Native American Heritage Month.

The original day will always be Nov. 15, however the event was expanded to a week to create more event opportunities for schools



Donald (Butch) McIntosh is dancing with special moccasins on for Rock Your Mocs 2022. Mr. McIntosh is a Mvskoke Nation citizen, a member of the Honor Guard, and master beader. (Courtesy: Donald McIntosh)

and people who work Monday through Friday.

Those who participate during the week are encouraged to take photos, and videos, then post them online to social media websites like Facebook, Twitter, Tik Tok, Snapcat and Instagram. Make sure to use the hastag #RockYourMocs.

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Michael C. Neafus

**Branch:** Navy  
**Bio:** Michael C. Neafus is the grandson of Nicey Coonhead of the Euchee tribe. Neafus is a Navy Veteran, and served from 1970 - 1974 in the Vietnam Era. He was a Hospital Corpsman Second Class Petty Officer. He was stationed at Bethesda, Maryland Naval Hospital and the Naval Hospital in Naples, Italy.



Elaine Anderson

**Branch:** Marine Corps

Sam Anderson Jr.

**Branch:** Navy  
**Bio:** Sam Anderson Jr. - U.S. Navy (Kneeling, second from left, with fellow Newtown Methodist Church veterans)



Samuel P. Anderson Sr.

**Branch:** Army  
**Bio:** Samuel Anderson was born in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Indian Territory in 1895 to Tom and Haley Anderson. He was orphaned at an early age, and received his public education at mission schools. According to a story he told his oldest daughter, Jorene, army recruiters in Okmulgee promised him that he could become a United States citizen if he enlisted and served in the military during World War I. Sam fought in the Battle of Meuse-Argonne, with over a million fellow American soldiers. PFC Anderson survived deadly battles, wounds and exposure to mustard gas, as the United States and its allies defeated Germany. Sam married Martha Gibson after his army service, and together they had seven children, losing their first child, an infant daughter, Margaret. Of his family of six (6) children who lived to adulthood, four (4) enlisted in branches of the US military.

Vernon Anderson

**Branch:** Army



Richard “Chief” Bruner

**School:** Army  
**Bio:** Richard “Chief” Bruner was born on April 10, 1929 in Okmulgee to parents Toney & Mable Bruner. He resided In Okmulgee County most of his life. On Jan. 11, 1953 he married Geraldene Carmichael of Haskell. They established their home in Okmulgee County where they raised 8 children. He was a veteran who proudly served his country in the United States Army from August 1950 to 1953, where he earned several medals, including the Korea Service Medal, the United States Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. “Chief” retired from Haskell Food after 25 years. He was proud of his Muscogee (Creek) Nation heritage. He belonged to the deer clan. His favorite thing to do was spend time with his family, and go to the casino. He took much pride in taking care of his family's cemetery. He passed away at age 88 In 2017.

Kenneth Bunner

**Branch:** Army  
**Bio:** SFC Kenneth Bunner enlisted in the U.S. Army on July 22, 1968 and was discharged July 21, 1971 as an E5 Sergeant. He retired from the U.S.A Reserves April 28, 1997 as an E7 Sergeant First Class. He served in the 101st Airborne Division – Vietnam, Special Forces – Green Beret – and 16 plus years in the Reserves. His wartime service in Vietnam lasted from April 10, 1969 – March 30, 1970. He fought at Quang Tri, Phu Bai, Hue City and Hamburger Hill May 10-20, 1969. He performed 112 helicopter assault landings and incursions into other places during Vietnam and the Reserves.



Jorene Coker

**Branch:** Navy

Dena Cook

**Branch:** Army  
**Bio:** Staff Sergeant Dena Cook served in the army from 2000-2015. She served in Fort Lewis, WA, Republic of Korea, Fort Hood, TX, Fort Wainwright, AK, and Fort Riley, KS. She was part of the Operation Liberation of Iraq/Transition of Iraq from 2003-2004, Operation Iraqi Sovereignty in 2009, and Operation Enduring Freedom from 2013-2014. Her awards and ribbons include Valorous Unit Citation, Meritorious Service Medal, 4 Army Commendation Medals, 4 Army Achievement Medals, 4 Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with One Star, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with One Star, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (4th Award), and the NATO Non-Article 5 Medal.



Vanessa M. DelAngel

**Branch:** Air Force  
**Bio:** Major DelAngel is currently assigned to the Red Horse Unit at Hurlburt Field, Florida as the Logistics Readiness Officer. She has served nearly 10 years, and has been deployed three times within her service to the Middle East and Pacific theaters. Major DelAngel has traveled the world leading U.S Airmen, troops, and our allies in mission success. She has traveled the world completing large scale multi-million dollar contracts, re-established host nation relationships, and enabled for the U.S. hopes of tomorrow. She is from Duck Creek Ceremonial grounds, Concharty United Methodist Church and is of the Bird Clan.

George C. Dunn Sr.

**Branch:** Army  
**Bio:** While a Junior at Morris High School (MHS) George C. Dunn Sr. enlisted in the Oklahoma Army National Guard HHC 120th Engineer Combat Heavy Battalion in 1981. His enlistment contract was under the split-training option program. In the summer of 1981 he began basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina for eight weeks. He came back to graduate from MHS in 1982. He 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 and 8 months of service. 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.



Joe Spencer Funchess

**Branch:** Air Force  
**Bio:** Joe Spencer Funchess was born in Okemah, OK in 1944 and graduated from Santa Paula (CA) High School in 1962. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1962 and served as a B-52 maintenance crew member at Castle AFB. His overall service lasted 3 years, 11 months, and 28 days. Spencer worked for SoCal Gas for three years. He became a deputy marshal in Ventura Co., CA in 1969, then transferred to the Ventura County Sheriff's Office in 1980. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences from the University of LaVerne in 1975. He served as an Okemah City Council member for four years. He is a 32nd Degree Mason and a member of the American Legion. He lives with his wife in Bixby, OK. He has two sons, three step-children, and three grandchildren.

Kevin Clinton Kramer

**Branch:** Army  
**Bio:** CPL Kevin Kramer, a.k.a “Bing” was born in Wichita, KS on January 18th, 1950 to Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Carrie Clinton Kramer. His mother, Carrie is a member of the Euchee Tribe registered under the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. He grew up the second son and third child. He excelled in gymnastics in high school and was one of the few to conquer the Iron Cross at the age of 18. He served in the U.S. Army 3rd BN 21st Infantry from November 1970 – March 10th 1971. His hobbies and passions included motorcycles, playing his Fender guitar, singing, and devotion to his his blue 1965 Mustang. His family is very proud of him and his service to our nation as well as representing the Yuchi Tribe. We love and miss you Bing!







Eddie B. Leader

**Branch:** Army  
**Bio:** Eddie B. Leader was born on May 13, 1948 in Oklahoma City, OK. He's the son of Barney Leader, former Chief and Medicine Man of the New Tulsa Spaulding Stomp Grounds, and Molly E. Bell. He graduated from Moss High School with a perfect attendance record for all 12 years. He played basketball and baseball. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the Vietnam War, 173rd 101, 82 Airborne from 1968-1970. He currently resides in Henryetta, OK and has four daughters and one son. He has 14 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. His hobbies include fishing, hunting, and spending time with his kids and grand-kids. His children are Angie Dodds, Elizabeth Leader, Victoria Clark, Stephanie Havens, and Bryan Leader. Eddie is a Creek Native and proud to be a part of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation family. We love you Daddy, thank you for your service.

Jared Ware

**Branch:** Army  
**Bio:** Jared Ware graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He served on active duty as an officer in the United States Army Corps of Engineers. He served at various installations in the continental United States, which ranged from Fort Riley, Kansas to Fort Belvoir, Virginia. His overseas assignments included South Korea, England, Hawaii and Iraq. His last operational assignment was as the Division Engineer for the 82nd Airborne Division, and his final academic assignment was teaching geospatial information science at the United States Military Academy. He served as a para-trooper in the 20th Engineer Brigade and the 82nd Airborne Division, and earned the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and Legion of Merit among other medals and ribbons during his career. He was also awarded a military meritorious service award by the Society for American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE).



Eddie D. West

**Branch:** Army  
**Bio:** Eddie D. West joined the U.S. Army on March 5 1967, and served on Active Duty until February 1970. He joined the Army Reserve in March 1970 and remained a member of the Reserves as a Chief Warrant Officer until retirement on September 20, 2008. Eddie also worked Dual Status in the Army Reserves as Supervisor Of Area Maintenance Activity with the 90TH Army Reserve Command for the same period. Eddie married Shirley White of Henryetta, OK on June 6, 1970. They have two sons, Rodney married to Angela West, Broken Arrow, OK, and son Bradley married to Lacey, Coweta, OK. Ed has three grandchildren who are his pride and joy, Kyndell, Kinsley and Kaiden.

Richard E. Wilde

**Branch:** Navy  
**Bio:** Following high graduation I enlisted and served during the Vietnam era conflict (1959-1975). The ships I served on were not deployed to the coast of Vietnam, however, we were combat ready if the need arose. In short, I saw no combat duty during my time in the service. I am also recognized as a cold war veteran (1945-1991). I was enlisted from August 20, 1970 to August 1978. I did boot camp training at the Naval Training Station in Orlando, FL. I served Sea Duty from November 1970 to July 1973 on the USS Yellowstone AD 27, Charleston, SC, June 6, 1971 to August 9, 1971 MR – A School San Diego, CA, August 1973 to June 1974 on the USS Standley DLG32, Charleston, SC, Naval Reserve from June 1974 to August 1978 and was honorably discharged in 1978, MR3.



SrA Sarah Wilson

**Branch:** Air Force  
**Bio:** SrA Sarah (Shu Shu) Wilson is from Duck Creek ceremonial ground, Conchartry United Methodist Church and Native American Church. She enjoys helping her community and spending time with her family. Sarah served as a chemical warfare instructor while in the military. Overall she served eight years in the Air Force.

Grover Wind

**Branch:** Air Force  
**Bio:** Grover Wind is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Service Office Director and is an enrolled Citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Wind is a Vietnam-era veteran of the United States Air Force where he served from 1971 to 1975. Wind has organized the Mvskoke Riders Funeral Escort for Native Veteran's funerals and established the Cemetery Committee for the Veteran's Cemetery. He has 15 years experience of ministry and pastoral care. Prior to serving as the Secretary of the Veterans Affairs Services Office, Wind was a Chaplain for the MCN Department of Health. Wind is a graduate of Tulsa Junior College (Tulsa Community College), where he received his Associate Degree in Marketing and is an accredited Service Officer with the U.S. Veterans Administration. He was awarded the Department of Army Certification of Appreciation and the Department of Army Certificate of Appreciation for Bravery and Valor.



James Charles Wind

**Branch:** Navy  
**Bio:** I served in the Navy from 1982-1986 and went through training in Orlando, FL. After schooling, I was stationed at NAS Jacksonville, FL and was assigned to Helantisubron 7 (HS-7). This helicopter squadron was assigned antisubmarine warfare in support of fleet units, plus search and rescue. HS-7 was attached to the U.S.S. John F. Kennedy Aircraft Carrier out of Norfolk, VA. After months of preparation, we deployed for a TransAtlantic/Mediterranean SeaCruise lasting six months. The Ports of Call include: Brazil, Columbia, Israel, Italy, England, Barbados, and St. Thomas. Due to the Lebanon Conflict (1983), we were on station for over 100 days. I was chosen Sailer of the month in my squadron. Later, upon separation from the U.S. Navy, I received: Navy Expeditionary medal – Lebanon, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Battle “E” Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and a Honorable Discharge as a Petty Officer Second-Class Aviation Maintenance Administration man.

Tarpie Yargee

**Branch:** Marine Corps  
**Bio:** Lance Corporal Tarpie Yargee enlisted in the United States Marine Corp and served in the Vietnam War. Tarpie Yargee walked the Ho Chi Minh Trail and served as a radio man. Yargee was the son of Phillip and Winey Scott Yargee. He served as the Alabama Quassarte Second Chief and Chief.



Jeff Henderson

**Branch:** Air Force  
**Bio:** Jeff Henderson retired in 2008 as a Senior Master Sergeant (SMSgt) in the United States Air Force after serving for 29 years. Jeff was a Chaplain Assistant for 24 years and served for 5 years in the security forces. Jeff is the son of Booker T. Henderson Jr. and Flora (Brown) Henderson, the grandson of Minnie (Williams) Gates, and great-grandson of Rena (Fish) Williams and great-great grandson of Chocteh Fish.

Michelle N. Dunn

**Branch:** Army  
**Bio:** SPC. Michelle N. Dunn enlisted in the Oklahoma Army National Guard in March 2018. Her MOS is 88M10 Motor Transport Operator for the D Company 700th Forward Support Company in McAlester, Oklahoma. The unit eventually moved to Ardmore, Oklahoma. She graduated from Morris High School in 2015. She continued her education at Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) where she received her Bachelors of Science - Business Administration in 2021. She left for basic training two days after graduating with her associate degree from HINU in 2018. She reported for basic training on May 22, 2018 to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and completed all necessary training August of 2018. She deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom – Horn of Africa in April 2023. She trained in Fort Bliss, Texas for a month before deploying for Africa in May 2023. We want to acknowledge how proud we are of SPC Dunn!



**MVSKOKE HONOR GUARD - A MUCH NEEDED BLESSING**

The following article is a submission from the Hughes County Tribune, which initially ran in the November 5, 2020 edition of their newspaper. The Tribune has given express permission for Mvskoke Media to reprint this article for this publication.

OKMULGEE, Okla. - I have great admiration and appreciation for the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard. They will go wherever and whenever needed to participate in the final service of a veteran. They receive no compensation, and do it out of love for their country and respect for their fellow veterans.

A specific thank you to my fellow veteran and good friend, Curtis Smith for providing me with the following information.

The Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard evolved from the Este Cate Veterans, a group of veterans from the Wetumka area. Their initial activities were marching in local parades, fund raising, and taking a collection at the monthly meetings. During this time, other veterans took interest and the mem-

bership grew.

The group reached out to the Seminole Nation Color Guard for guidance and direction. Initially, the Seminole Nation Color Guard demonstrated the rites and on occasion, lent their rifles and ammunition to our group to carry out our burial rites.

Legislation NCA 99-161 adopted and authorized the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard to represent the Nation at military rites, parades, and presenting the colors at various events, The most notable being the Inter-Tribal Council, College of the Muscogee Nation, Mvskoke Etulwa in Washington, D.C., Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon, Georgia, Council Oak, and various seminars.

Funding is provided within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Comprehensive Annual Budget. At the end of each fiscal year, receipts are submitted to the MCN Office of the Controller for accountability.

The honor guard meetings are held every second Saturday of the month in the Council chambers with an agenda of minutes, financial report and report on past events. The request for upcom-

ing events are brought before the membership for consideration.

On April 27, 2019, the Honor Guard, at the Seminole Nation Tribal Complex, recognized the Seminole Nation Color Guard for the initial assistance with a plaque and blanket. This presentation was made with the attendance of the Principal Chief of the Seminole Nation and their General Council.

The group understands that on any public outing, they represent themselves and the Nation, and perform their activities with dignity and respect.

Please understand that military rites take priority over any scheduled events. Up to this time, the group has performed approximately 400 grave rites.

The narrative could not have been presented if not for the dedication and compassion of your honor guard. They have withstood various weather conditions - hot, cold, and rainy days to perform these rites. We take pride in performing these activities as it fills us with a sense of contribution and love for our veterans and this Nation.

Here is the list of both former and present members of the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard Members.

Thomas Yahola - U.S. Army (Cold War); Loy D. Thomas - U.S. Navy (Vietnam); Jesse Givens - U.S. Army (Vietnam); Buster Bear - U.S. Army (Vietnam); Michael Wesley - U.S. Army (Vietnam); Bob Kilcrease - U.S. Army (Vietnam); Daniel Littlebear - U.S. Army; Duane Sells - U.S. Army (Vietnam); Charles Melton - U.S. Marines (Vietnam); John Melton - U.S. Marines (Vietnam); Curtis Smith - U.S. Marines (Cold War); David Francis - U.S. Marines (Cold War); Butch McIntosh - U.S. Air Force (Vietnam Era); Jack Stafford - U.S. Airforce (Vietnam); Harold Yahola - U.S. Army (Cold War); Clem George - U.S. Army (Desert Storm); Monte Randall - U.S. Navy (Middle East Era); William Wind - U.S. Navy (Middle East Era); Arlo Mosco - U.S. Army (Middle East Era); John Lusty - U.S. Marine Corp (Middle East Era); Rufus Scott - U.S. Army (Cold War) Inactive; Vernon Courtwright - U.S. Navy (Vietnam Era) Inactive.

Randall Joshua - U.S. Army (Vietnam) Inactive; Sam Bass - U.S. Marines (Cold War) Inactive; Clarence Johnson - U.S.

Army (Vietnam) Inactive; Richard Dabbs - U.S. Army (Vietnam Era) Inactive; Amos Starr - U.S. Army (Vietnam) Inactive; Darren Francis - U.S. Air Force - Inactive; Smiley Barnett - U.S. Army (Korea) Inactive; Clifford Lewis - U.S. Air Force (Korea) Inactive; Bob Jackson - U.S. Navy (Korea) Inactive; Tim Thompson - U.S. Marines (Vietnam) Inactive; Leo Moppin - U.S. Army (Vietnam Era) Inactive; Gerri Wiesner Foley - U.S. Marines (Desert Storm) Inactive; John Yahola - U.S. Army (Vietnam Era) Inactive; Edmond Barnett - U.S. Army (Vietnam Era); Michael Fish - U.S. Army (Middle East Era); John Bigpond - U.S. Army (Cold War); Dugan McIntosh - U.S. Air Force (Deceased); George Almerigi - U.S. Navy (Desceased); Gerry Berryhill - U.S. Navy (Deceased); Jim Wesley - U.S. Army (Deceased); Jim Basquez - U.S. Navy (Deceased); Amos Harjo - U.S. Army (Deceased); Ron Moses - U.S. Army (Deceased).

Our community and country owe you a great deal of gratitude. When a veteran's family needs you, you are always there. God Bless You.