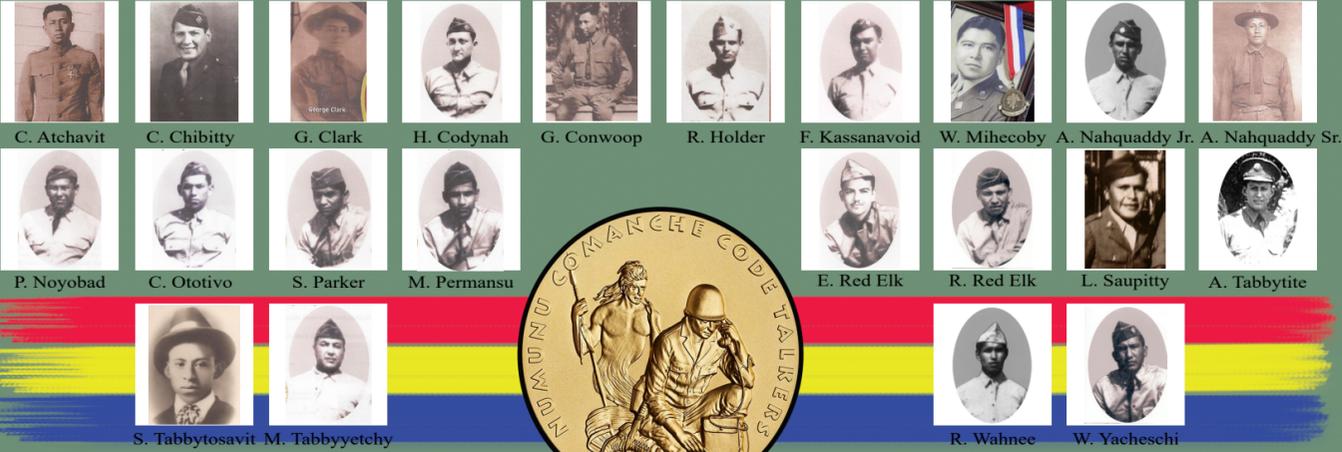


The Comanche Nation News



Comanche Nation News
PO Box 908
Lawton, OK 73502

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Congressional Gold Medal of Honor
Awarded October 15, 2008

Comanche Code Talkers

VOLUME 24 EDITION 11

Comanche Nation Public Information Office, Lawton, OK

᠘ratābenit᠘ Mᠠᠠ (November) 2023

Asepermy Inducted into Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Courtesy Photo

On October 8, Sergeant Major (Retired) Lanny Asepermy was inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor (OKMHOF) in a private ceremony at his home west of Apache.

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

The OKMHOF along with the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame (OKMHOF) are both sponsored by the Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation which was founded in 1999. Comanches that have been inducted into the OKMHOF are Charles Chibitty in 2002, George Red Elk and the 14 Comanche Code Talkers (Charles Chibitty; Haddon Codynah; Robert Holder; Forrest Kassanavoid; Wellington Mibecoby; Perry Noyobad; Clifford Ototivo Sr.; Melvin Permansu; Elgin Red Elk; Roderick Red Elk; Simmons Parker; Larry Saupitty; Morris Tabbyyetchy; and Willis Yackeschi) that served in Europe during World War II in 2011 and Cloyce "Chuck" Choney in 2021. The OKMHOF was inducted in 2023 with 10 inductees - Asepermy is the first Comanche inducted into the OKMHOF.

The presentation was scheduled, at the Comanche Nation Fair, after the flag-lowering ceremony for George Red Elk, but due to medical issues was held at Asepermy's home. The presentation was made by Colonel (Retired) Kelly Zachgo, Vice-President of the Heritage Foundation, and John Farris, coordinator of the Ambassadors in Charge of the Foundation.

Asepermy was presented with a framed Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor citation and Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor medallion. His citation reads "Sergeant Major Lanny Asepermy was selected by the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation for membership into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor. SGM Asepermy, Comanche Nation Veteran and Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame Ambassador, has dedicated his life to the military veterans, the Native American heritage, and his family. His accomplishments include the Code Talker Recognition Act for the Comanche, Kiowa, and Choctaw Nations, various Veterans monuments, historical documentation of Comanche Veterans from World War I to present, and many others. SGM Asepermy, a true leader, coordination a one of the kind Color Guard with two tribal Color groups complemented with drummers, singers, and tribal princesses signing and singing the National Anthem for the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame Banquet & Induction Ceremony. SGM Asepermy

See ASEPERMY, Page 12

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Attention Comanche Tribal Members:

The CBC has made the determination that the monthly CBC meetings will be conducted without being live-streamed. The meetings will be recorded and made available to tribal members within five days of the meeting being adjourned. Please keep in mind that cell phones and recording devices will be prohibited during the meeting, and if a member of the audience attempts to record the meeting, they will be requested to put their cellphone away.

The officers and entity reports will no longer be presented during the CBC monthly meeting. The reports will be available to tribal members as requested.

The CBC monthly meetings are to conduct business on behalf of the Comanche Nation, and the CBC determined that it is in the best interest of our nation to no longer discuss financials or any other information that could be detrimental regarding the rights, powers, and privileges of the tribe and its members. The CBC has a duty to the tribe and its members to improve the economic, moral, education, and health of its members and to ensure that resolutions and motions are passed to continue with the business of the nation.

We appreciate your understanding of the changes being implemented to safeguard our nation and to protect the tribe and its members as a whole.

SECRETARIAL ELECTION NOTICE COMANCHE NATION

Deadline to Register to Vote is November 9;
Mail-In Voting Ballot is Due by December 9

Submitted by Sherry Lovin/ BIA/Southern Plains Regional Office

The Comanche Business Committee submitted Resolution No. 100-2023, to propose a Constitutional Amendment ("Amendment") and request the Secretary of the Interior to authorize an election to allow tribal members the opportunity to vote - on the proposed Amendment as in accordance to Article XI - Amendments of the Constitution of the Comanche Nation ("Nation"). The election will be conducted by the Southern Plains Regional Office for the Nation in ac-

cordance with Article XI - Amendments of the Constitution and Part 81 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations ("25 CFR Part 81").

On September 15, the Authorizing Official (Regional Director, Southern Plains Region) approved and authorized a Secretarial Election. Subsequently, Sherry Lovin, Tribal Government Officer, Southern Plains Region, was appointed as the Chairperson of the Secretarial Election Board. The Chairperson's respon-

sibility is to see that the Secretarial Election is conducted pursuant to regulations in 25 CFR Part 81.

Tribal members of the Nation are hereby advised an election will be held on December 9, for the purpose of voting on proposed Amendment. This election is NOT a tribal election and will NOT be conducted under tribal election procedures.

Tribal members of the Nation now have the opportunity to vote
See SECRETARIAL ELECTION, Page 3



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Janee Kassanavoid, United States Bronze Medalist in the Hammar Throw at the World Games, is honored with a special during the powwow, Sept. 30 at the Comanche Nation Fair. See more photos of the Comanche Nation Fair in this issue.

Edwin Chappabitty Jr. Inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame Posthumously



File Photo

Chappabitty

Edwin Chappabitty Jr. (1945-2021) was inducted posthumously into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame on October 28 at the Embassy Suites in Norman, Okla.

CAPT Edwin Chappabitty was born in Lawton, Okla. In 1945, and was a member of the Comanche Nation. He graduated from Lawton High School in 1963, Cameron University in 1965, and Oklahoma State University in 1967 with a degree in zoology; commissioned from ROTC as an Artillery Officer, he served in Vietnam from 1969-1970, where he received three awards with a "V" for heroism: two Bronze Stars and Army Commendation medal. After leaving the Army in 1972, he earned his medical degree, as commissioned in the USPHS in 1983 and specialized as a Family Practice physician in Lawton for 25 years.

Former Professional Boxer, "Comanche Boy" George Tahdoahnippah Inducted in the North American Indigenous Athletic Hall of Fame



Courtesy Photo

A Comanche Nation tribal member had a moment to remember last month. Being inducted into the North American Indigenous Athletic Hall of Fame.

The event took place September 9, at Canterbury Park Event Center in Shakopee, Minnesota. George "Comanche Boy" Tahdoahnippah, tribal member and winner of four middleweight boxing championship titles was amongst the athletes recognized.

"Comanche Boy," a husband and father of 5, launched his boxing career in 2004. "I am truly honored and humbled. When I started on this journey, nobody believed in me. But

See TAHDOOAHNIPPAH, Page 4



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THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS

Cratabenitü Mna
(November) 2023

Thanksgiving Month

The award-winning *Comanche Nation News*, the official communication of the Comanche Nation, is available at no charge upon request. The deadline to submit information for the November edition is 5 p.m., October 15.

Contact:

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Lawton, Okla. 73502-0908

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- **News items** of interest to the local and American Indian community are welcome.
- **Photographs** will be copied and will become the property of *TCNN*. To return original photographs, send a self-addressed stamped envelope. Do not send faxed photographs or newspaper copies of photographs.
- **The Milestones Page** (Birthdays, Anniversaries, Engagements, Memorial Pictures, Weddings, Births) are by submission only. Please submit a first and last name. The Passings/Obituaries are submitted by the Comanche Nation Funeral Home or by tribal members on a funeral home letterhead. The Milestones Page is for tribal members only. *TCNN* publishes all services conducted by The Comanche Nation Funeral Home without discretion. The Obituaries Page is for tribal members only.
- **TCNN** will print a Comanche organization's annual event flyer once free of charge as a courtesy to our tribal organizations. The guidelines for flyer submission are: Pow-wow flyers have to be from an established Comanche organization. There has to be contact person and number on the organization's annual flyer.
- **We reserve the right to edit all material. Letters or articles that contain libelous information, slander, or personal attacks will not be printed. Letters to the Editor must be signed with a legible name, and have an 500 word limit. The letters to the editor or articles contained in *The Comanche Nation News* does not reflect the views or opinions of the PIO staff.**

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Dr. Cornel Pewewardy

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Julia Mantzke

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Telephone: (580) 492-3573

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P.O. Box 908

Lawton, Okla. 73502

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Physical Address:

584 Bingo Rd., Lawton, OK 73505

- Member of the Native American Journalist Association since 2001
- Member of the Society of Professional Journalists since 2010
- Member of the Oklahoma Press Association since 2022

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Government

A Total of 12 Resolutions are Presented at the August CBC Meeting

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Editor's Note: This is an overview of the October 7, Comanche Business Committee Monthly Meeting, and not the official minutes. To obtain a copy of the official minutes, please contact the Office of the Chairman, (580) 492-3251.

Comanche Nation Chairman Mark Woommavovah called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Resolutions

Resolution No. 103-2023- Law Enforcement Criminal Justice Information Services - CBC No. 2, Ross Kahrahrh, motions to accept the resolution. Fox seconds it. The Motion carries 5/0/0.

Resolution No. 104-2023- CBC CIVVA Veterans Day. Wahnee, motions to table the resolution. Pewewardy seconds it. The Motion carries 5/0/0.

Resolution No. 105-2023- CBC KCAJLUC Committee Re-appointment of Mark Woommavovah, John Wahnee, Hazel Tahsequah, and alternate Jordan Fox - Ross Kahrahrh,

motions to accept the resolution. Wahnee seconds it. The Motion carries 5/0/0.

Resolution No. 106-2023- WIOA Resolution for Updated CNG Guidelines - Tahsequah motions to accept the resolution. Pewewardy seconds it. The Motion carries 5/0/0.

Resolution No. 107-2023- Enterprise Board Appointment - Fox motions to accept the resolution. Wahnee seconds it. The Motion carries 5/0/0.

Wahnee makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pewewardy seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.



SECRETARIAL ELECTION

Continued from Page 1

on the ratification or rejection of the proposed Amendment. Only adult tribal members who are 18 years and older on the date of the Secretarial Election AND who have registered to vote in this election will be entitled to vote on the adoption or rejection of the proposed Amendment.

A Secretarial Election Notice is being mailed to all members 18 years of age and older at the address listed on the current tribal membership roll with a Voter Registration Form. Any tribal member who does not receive a Secretarial Election Notice Packet by mail or it has become lost you may pick up a Secretarial Election Notice Packet in person at:

Southern Plains Regional Office 100 Riverside Drive
Anadarko, Oklahoma
or call (405) 247-1542

Comanche Nation Complex
584 NW Bingo Road
Elgin, Oklahoma
or call (580) 492-4988

The Voter Registration Form MUST BE RECEIVED by the Secretarial Election Board, via U.S. Mail at

P.O. Box 1550,
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

by November 9, in order to vote in this election. Please consider mail delivery time and complete the Voter Registration Form and place in the U.S. Mail immediately for it to be RECEIVED by November 9. You must submit your Voter Registration Form to the Secretarial Election Board by U.S. Mail.

Any adult tribal member whose name does not appear on the Registered Voters List can challenge the right to vote by presenting a written challenge to the Secretarial Election Board. The right to vote of anyone whose name is on the list may also be challenged in writing to the Secretarial Election Board via U.S. Mail at

P.O. Box 1550,
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

by November 29. This election is to be conducted entirely by mailout ballot only. There will be no polling sites. If your Voter Registration Form is RECEIVED by November 9, you will automatically be mailed a Mailout Ballot Packet. Immediately after the ballots are counted on December 9, the Certificate of Results of Election will be posted at the Comanche Nation Complex, Elgin, Oklahoma; Comanche Nation Anadarko Outreach Office, Anadarko, Oklahoma;

Comanche Nation OKC Outreach Office, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Comanche Nation Dallas Outreach Office, Dallas, Texas; Anadarko Agency, Anadarko, Oklahoma; and Southern Plains Regional Office, Anadarko, Oklahoma.

RULES OF SECRETARIAL ELECTION

RULES TO GOVERN THE SECRETARIAL ELECTION TO VOTE ON WHETHER TO RATIFY OR REJECT THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMANCHE NATION.

1. ELECTION DATE: December 9
2. POLLING PLACE: NONE-MAILOUT BALLOT VOTING ONLY
3. ELIGIBLE VOTERS: All enrolled members who are 18 years old or older on the day of the election and who have registered with the Secretarial Election Board will be permitted to vote to ratify or reject the proposed constitution amendment.

YOU MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAL ELECTION BOARD TO BE ENTITLED TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT.

4. REGISTRATION: The Voter Registration Form must be completed and received by the Secretarial Election Board by mail at

Secretarial Election Board,
P.O. Box 1550
Anadarko, Oklahoma

by November 9. If you do not receive the registration material or it has become lost, you may pick up the Secretarial Election Notice Packet from the

Comanche Nation Complex
584 NW Bingo Road
Elgin, Oklahoma
or call (580) 492-4988

IMPORTANT: If you do not properly register with the Secretarial Election Board, you will not be allowed to participate in this election.

5. REGISTRATION FORM: Voters that sign the Voter Registration Form using an "X" or a thumb print must have two (2) individuals sign as witnesses.

6. REGISTERED VOTERS LIST: The Registered Voter List shall be in alphabetical order and shall be posted for review no later than November, at the following locations:

From the Chairman's Desk



In life there is no such thing as failure. Failure is just life trying to move us in another direction.

It doesn't matter how far you might rise. At some point, you are bound to stumble. If you're constantly pushing yourself higher and higher, the law of averages predicts that you will at some point fall. And when you do, I want you to remember this: in life there is no such thing as failure. Failure is just life trying to move us in another direction.

On Creating Your Own Life

You define your own life. Don't let other people write your script. Living life on your own terms, rather than succumbing to pressure from those around you to live a certain way. These words resonate with us as Comanche People, as we are on a mission to help our people write their own life stories. We also believe that everyone has a unique story to tell, and that each one is worth writing down.

On Learning From Your Hardships

"Turn your wounds into wisdom."
A beacon of overcoming terrible circumstances and rising to brilliance, is what our Comanche People have done over the past decades. We were able to change our fate by working together for our people. We Comanches are champions of turning personal pain into fuel for growth, and embracing our pride, traditions, and culture heritage.

On Gratitude

"If the only prayer you ever say is thank you, that will be enough."
The simple act of giving thanks can have a profound effect on our happiness, experience of life, and our Comanche Nation. We need to make gratitude a daily priority in our lives.
"I've learned from experience that if you pull the lever of gratitude every day, you'll be amazed at the results."

Proverbs 15:13-15

A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed. The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly. All the days of the afflicted are evil, but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast.
These proverbs focus on the heart. A cheerful face indicates a positive attitude toward life; this comes about when the inner self is healthy. Such a person has inner joy all the time.

Comanche People, TOGETHER we are STRONGER; TOGETHER we are unbroken; TOGETHER we can do anything and when we're TOGETHER, everything falls into place. "COMANCHE STRONG-STRONGER TOGETHER!"

URA Chairman W.

ELGIN JOM FALL BENEFIT POWWOW

November 18, 2023
Elgin High School Gym - 520 I Street, Elgin, OK
All Gourd Dance
2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
5 p.m. Supper Break

Head Staff
MC: Carla Whiteman
Head Singer: Kevin "Bubba" Sovo
Head Gourd Dancer: Glen Gutierrez
Head Lady Dancer: Jaselyn Thompson
ADS: Travis Codynah & Lonnie Haun-Gooah
Security: Jim Wade, Brooklyn Nauni & Phillip Beech
CoHosts: IAMNDN, Cache JOM & Walters Service Club

All Princesses & Organizations Are Invited

2023-24 Elgin JOM Jr & Sr Princess & Brave Announcement at 7 p.m.

**Raffles - Cake Walk - 50/50 - Indian Taco Sale
Potato Dance - Round Dance - 2 Step**

Specials/Giveaways Are Optional.
For More Information, Please Call Jolene Schonchin (580) 583-2649.
Arts & Craft Vendors - \$25 or Raffle Item - Vendors Must Bring Own Table
No Drugs, Alcohol or Weapons Allowed.
Elgin JOM Is Not Responsible For Theft, Personal Injury, Vandalism or Property Damage.

Continued on Page 4



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Southern Plains Regional Office
Post Office Box 368
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

**PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMANCHE NATION
SECRETARIAL ELECTION
DECEMBER 9, 2023**

**SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON
COMANCHE NATION CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE V, SECTION 8:**

CURRENT	PROPOSED AMENDMENT
<p>Section 8. To hire an Administrator/Manager to administrate the tribal government who has a Bachelor's Degree with a minimum of three year's experience in high-level budgeting, and management of government programs. Anyone who has been convicted of a felony, a misdemeanor involving dishonesty, bribery, embezzlement, or has been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to have committed any improper appropriation or obligation of tribal assets, any improper addition or removal from tribal rolls, any indebtedness to the Comanche Nation, or fails a drug test shall not be eligible to hold the position. The administrator/Manager shall be under the direction of business committee. Members of the business committee shall not be an employee of the tribal government.</p>	<p>AMENDMENT A</p> <p>Section 8. To hire an Administrator/Manager to administrate the tribal government who has a Bachelor's Degree with a minimum of three year's experience in high-level budgeting, and management of government programs. The term of office for the Tribal Administrator is (3) three years and runs consecutively with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Comanche Nation. Anyone who has been convicted of a felony, a misdemeanor involving dishonesty, bribery, embezzlement, or has been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to have committed any improper appropriation or obligation of tribal assets, any improper addition or removal from tribal rolls, any indebtedness to the Comanche Nation, or fails a drug test shall not be eligible to hold the position. The administrator/Manager shall be under the direction of business committee. Members of the business committee shall not be an employee of the tribal government.</p>

Continued from Page 3

Southern Plains Regional Office
100 Riverside Drive
Anadarko, Oklahoma
or call (405) 247-1542

Comanche Nation Complex
584 NW Bingo Road
Elgin, Oklahoma
or call (580) 492-4988

7. **ELIGIBILITY DISPUTES:** Any adult tribal member whose name does not appear on the Registered Voters List can challenge the right to vote by presenting a written challenge to the Secretarial Election Board. The right to vote of anyone whose name is on the list may also be challenged in writing to the Secretarial Election Board. Such challenges must be sent to:

Secretarial Election Board,
P.O. Box 1550
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

Challenges must be received by November 29. The Secretarial Election Board shall meet to decide on any challenge; its decision shall be final.

8. **MAILOUT BALLOT VOTING:** Registered voters will vote by mailout ballot. Hand delivered ballots will not be accepted under any circumstances. Ballots must be received through the U.S. Mail.

Mailout ballots must be

received by the Secretarial Election Board at P.O. Box 1550, Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005, by Saturday, December 9, 2023.

9. **COUNTING OF MAILOUT BALLOTS:** The ballots will be counted at the Comanche Nation Patriot Room. Counting will begin at 1 p.m. on December 9. Individuals present for the counting are asked not to interact or distract the election officials or workers during the counting process or they will be asked to leave.

10. **POSTING ELECTION RESULTS:** The Certificate of Results of Election shall be posted at the Comanche Nation Complex, Elgin, Oklahoma; Comanche Nation Anadarko Outreach Office, Anadarko, Oklahoma; Comanche Nation OKC Outreach Office, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Comanche Nation Dallas Outreach Office, Dallas, Texas; Anadarko Agency, Anadarko, Oklahoma; Anadarko Agency, Anadarko, Oklahoma; and Southern Plains Regional Office, Anadarko, Oklahoma on December 9.

11. **CHALLENGE OF ELECTION RESULTS:** Any Registered Voter may challenge the election results within five (5) days after the Certifi-

cate of Results of Election is posted. The challenge must be in writing, filed with the Secretarial Election Board Chairperson, and must give the grounds for the challenge with substantiating evidence. If, in the opinion of the Authorizing Official (Regional Director), the objections are valid and warrant a recount or new election, the Authorizing Official shall so order. The results of the recount or new election shall be final. **CHALLENGES OF ELECTION RESULTS MUST BE FILED BY DECEMBER 14:**

**SECRETARIAL ELECTION BOARD
P.O. BOX 1550
ANADARKO, OKLAHOMA 73005**

12. **RATIFICATION:** The proposed amendments to the constitution shall be effective when approved by the Authorizing Official, if the majority vote in favor of ratification; provided, at least 30 percent (30%) of the registered voters have cast ballots in the election.

TAHDOOAHNIPPAH

Continued from Page 1



Courtesy Photo

I kept going," said Tahdoohnippah. His boxing titles include: Native American Boxing Council's Super Middleweight Champion, World Boxing Council's Continental Americas Middleweight Champion, North American Boxing Association's US Middleweight Champion, and Oklahoma Super Middleweight Boxing Champion.

He has also been recognized as 2011's Top 40 under 40 Native American Entrepreneur, 2011 Goodwill Ambassador Award from the World Boxing Council for his fight against diabetes, American Indian Exposition's 2012 Celebrity Indian of the Year award, and 2022 Distin-

guished Alumni of Cameron University.

Tahdoohnippah worked hard to represent the Comanche people. He had the largest fan base in Oklahoma and was accompanied into the ring with Native American Fancy War Dancers in full regalia, drums pounding from Native American Drum group, and Native American Rappers. Tahdoohnippah said, "No fighter in the world brought what I brought to the ring."

Comanche Boy's showmanship didn't stop there – he was well known for knocking out his opponents with his power punching, and especially for his post knockout victory war dance.

Tahdoohnippah built a nine-year 31-0 boxing career before his first loss. He fought four ESPN bouts and was the Main Event on ESPN's Friday Night Fights, including one undercard, HBO pay per view fight at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada. "This has been the highest honor I carried as a professional fighter and I did my best representing my Native American people," said Tahdoohnippah.

"Comanche Boy" retired from boxing in 2016 with a total 42 professional bouts and a record of 34 wins, 3 losses, 3 draws and 2 no contests. Today he continues to fight for his people as the CEO of Numunu Staffing and Numunu Construction. He works to diversify and grow the tribe's economy, develop the tribe's workforce, actively employ and mentor tribal members. The companies he leads employ a nearly 70% Native American staff.

Chairman Woommavovah becomes the new Bacone College Board of Trustee member

On September 7, the Comanche Nation Chairman Mark Woommavovah was appointed a Bacone College Board of Trustee seat. Bacone College in Muskogee, Oklahoma, formerly known as The Indian University, was founded in 1880 to educate Indigenous students.

Since then, the college has focused on one vision, "empowering transformational leaders who incorporate traditional values and voices to impact our local communities around the world positively."

Bacone College Interim President Dr. Nicky Kay Michael said she saw that in the Comanche Nation Chairman.

"His leadership is impressive," Dr. Michael said. "Several board members have watched him lead the Comanche Nation and work within the community and knew he could help improve Bacone's vision."

Before Comanche Nation College closed its doors, Dr. Michael said they had a great relationship with the Comanche Nation and hoped this partnership would reignite it once more.

The Board of Trustees comprises ten leaders from all over the area, primarily indigenous— working closely with the students and

staff, being their visionaries, directors, and decision-makers.

As the oldest institution of higher education in Oklahoma, they have a rich history from over 45 tribal nations. Still, Bacone, being a non-profit minority school, counts on the board to make the best decisions for the students, specifically ones who may need extra support.

"We, the students and staff, are just the nuts and bolts of the college," Dr. Michael said. "They [Board of Trustees] are the machine." Chairman Woommavovah says he hopes to bring his vision of being stronger together into this role, as it has a massive influence within the college.

"Service on the board of trustees is a prestigious role that requires a commitment to the institution's mission and the welfare of its students, faculty, and staff," Woommavovah said. "As board members, we bring a diverse range of skills and expertise to the table, contributing to the overall success and governance of Bacone College."

Chairman Woommavovah will sit as a Board of Trustee member for the 4-year term limit and may be reinvited to keep his position per the other board members' nomination.

Comanche Nation Casino Names Winner of "Getaway in Style" Promotion

Lawton Resident drives away with a brand-new Bronco Sport

LAWTON, Okla., (Oct. 17, 2023) - Comanche Nation Entertainment has named a winner for its highly anticipated "Getaway in Style" promotional drawing. The drawing took place on Oct. 6, declaring Lawton resident Mary F. the winner of a brand-new 2023 Ford Bronco Sport Outer Banks, valued near \$40,000.

"This is the second Ford Bronco we've given as a promotional prize this year and they have been incredibly popular," said Mia Tahdoohnippah, CEO of Comanche Nation Entertainment. "We would like to express our gratitude to all our valued guests who made this promotion a success. We look forward to hosting more exciting events and opportunities at our properties."

The "Getaway in Style" promotion began on Aug. 4 and concluded with the Grand Prize Finale drawing on Oct. 6. During the Grand Prize Finale event, three finalists lined up and selected a confetti box,

hoping to reveal the winning box. As they pulled the lids off their boxes, a burst of confetti filled the air. The guest whose box was filled with blue confetti would drive away in style, as the proud owner of a brand-new Ford Bronco Sport Outer Banks.

The Ford Bronco Sport is an adventure-ready SUV that offers the perfect blend of rugged off-road capabilities, a powerful 245-hp turbo engine and a versatile interior layout. The compact SUV is great for exploring the wilderness or navigating city streets.

Comanche Nation Casino is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To learn more about Comanche Nation Casino, visit www.comanchenationcasino.com.

For more information on Comanche Nation Entertainment properties, visit www.comanchenationentertainment.com or follow the company on Facebook.

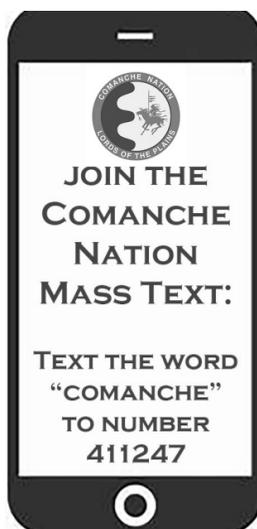
**DIVORCE?
WRITS?
WILLS/CODICILS?
ATTESTATIONS?**

Notary Services

Packets/citations typed and prepared for Native Americans for issuance through BIA Court of Indian Offenses. (Additional BIA filing fees due at time of documentation)

REASONABLE PREP FEES

Contact: Jewell Laurenzana Tieyah
(580) 678-2052 or (580) 492-5455



Programs

Higher Education Adult Education Student of the Month



Courtesy Photo
Joshua Tenequer

Joshua Tenequer will complete the Teacher Preparation Program in December. He has worked the past five years at the Native American Community Academy, where he is a secondary level P.E., Wellness and NM History teacher.

"I'm thankful for the support from my tribe and am fortunate to guide youth to be leaders while honoring their culture," said Tenequer.

Tenequer resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico with his daughters Dakota and Marley.

The Comanche Nation Higher Education is very proud to honor him as their Student of the Month.

Higher Education Student of the Month Hannah Valdez

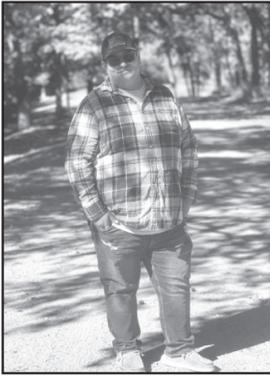


Courtesy Photo
Valdez

A native of Lawton, Oklahoma, Hannah Valdez is a student at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Valdez obtained a bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma, and will receive her Juris Doctor Degree in May of 2024. At OU, she is on the board of the Native American Law Student Association and has been recognized by the university for her writing on Indigenous legal issues. After graduation, Valdez plans on returning home to Lawton, and is interested in practicing criminal and tribal law.

Valdez is a descendant of John ("Slim") Tiebow, who was on counsel with Quanah Parker, and the great-granddaughter of Ivarine and Andrew Valdez, Sr., Grandchild of JoAnn and Andrew ("Ed") Valdez, and daughter of Angie and Rick Holder and Eddie and Stephanie Valdez. She could not have achieved these things without the support of her family or her tribal community.

Higher Education Student of the Month Jeremy Travis



Courtesy Photo

Travis

Jeremy Travis is the son of Dale Travis and Nancy (Cable) Travis and the grandson of the late Franklin "Shorty" Cable and Leatrice (Tahmahkera) Cable. He is a proud tribal member of the Comanche Nation. He grew up in the Lawton/Cache/Indiahoma area. He currently resides in Cache, Oklahoma. He has been married to his beautiful wife, Jessica Travis, for four years and they have three sons (Wyatt, Cayden, Arryn River). She works for the Comanche Academy as a teacher and he works as an ISD teacher at MacArthur Middle School. He is a minister and youth pastor at his church, Christ Community Center.

Travis currently in his junior year at Colorado Christian University majoring in Psychology with an emphasis in clinical counseling and hold a 3.7 GPA. He is on track to graduate in May 2025. Travis' future plans after graduation are to start working for the Comanche Nation Prevention and Recovery Program or other programs within the Comanche Nation. Travis plans to give back to the Comanche Nation and the community as much as he can because they have supported him through every season of his life.

Job Placement & Training Student of the Month Dante Irby



Courtesy Photo

Irby

Dante Irby is the grandson of the late Theodore and Lydia Niedo and the son of the late Elvira Niedo. He graduated from Cache High School in 2011 and he is currently living in Dallas, Texas.

Irby is pursuing a career in Aviation: Airframe & Powerplant Mechanics.

A certified A&P mechanic is someone who can independently perform maintenance tasks and alterations on an aircraft. A&P mechanics repair and maintain most parts of an aircraft, including the engines, the aircraft frame and electrics of an aircraft.

Once Irby is finished, he plans to work for U.S. Aviation to further his aviation career.

COMANCHE INDIAN
VETERANS ASSOCIATION
48TH ANNUAL

VETERANS DAY

NOV 11, 2023

COMANCHE NATION COMMUNITY CENTER OF APACHE

<p>HEAD STAFF</p> <p>CO-HOST: VFW POST 1015 ANADARKO, OKLA.</p> <p>MC: EDMOND NEVAQUAYA HS: DANIEL COZAD HD: ROBERT TEHAUNO (USMC VETERAN) AD'S: LARNEY SILVERHORN & ASHLEY KERCHEE SECURITY: BRIAN WAHNEE CONCESSION: CACHE JOM</p> <p>● ● ●</p> <p>HONORED VETERANS</p> <p>1ST LT. THOMAS BOYT, USAF VETERAN LCPL STEFANO RUIZ, USMC VETERAN EM2 JARRED LEE, US NAVY VETERAN FCSN WILLIAM KERCHEE, (POSTHUMOUSLY) US NAVY</p> <p>● ● ●</p> <p>CONTESTS</p> <p>MENS STRAIGHT/TRADITIONAL (1ST \$300, 2ND \$200, 3RD \$100) WOMAN'S CLOTH/BUCKSKIN (1ST \$300, 2ND \$200, 3RD \$100) MENS FANCY (1ST \$300, 2ND \$200, 3RD \$100) SPECIAL CONTEST FOR CURRENT & FORMER PRINCESSES IN HONOR OF CIVA PRINCESS ARLENE SCHONCHIN. MUST HAVE A BANNER.</p>	<p>SCHEDULE OF EVENTS</p> <p>AFTERNOON PROGRAM BEGINS AT 2PM EVENING PROGRAM BEGINS AT 7PM</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>OPENING PRAYER POSTING OF COLORS SCALP & VICTORY SONGS GOURD DANCE HONORS SUPPER BREAK</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>GRAND ENTRY WAR MOTHER SONGS SOCIAL DANCING CONTESTS CIVA SPECIAL</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>SPECIAL INVITATION TO 2023-2024 COMANCHE NATION PRINCESS MCKENZI SOVO</p> <p>2023-2024 COMANCHE NATION JR. PRINCESS VIVIEN PARKER</p> <p>CIVA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACCIDENTS OR LOST & STOLEN ITEMS.</p> <p>THIS IS A DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE EVENT. THE USAGE OF ANY ALCOHOL AND OR DRUGS IS STRONGLY PROHIBITED.</p> <p>VENDORS CALL DOMINIC PAWLOWSKI 580-695-9474</p>	<p>OPENING PRAYER POSTING OF COLORS SCALP & VICTORY SONGS GOURD DANCE HONORS SUPPER BREAK</p>	<p>GRAND ENTRY WAR MOTHER SONGS SOCIAL DANCING CONTESTS CIVA SPECIAL</p>
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WALTERS SERVICE CLUB

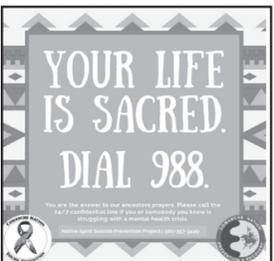
WATCHETAKER HALL ~ 584 NW BINGO RD LAWTON, OK

Saturday, November 11, 2023

2PM: Gourd Dance
5PM-6PM Supper Break
6PM: Evening Agenda Commences
10PM: End Time

Honored Veterans: Tim Monetatchi & Kenneth Lookingglass

<p>Master of Ceremonies Mike Burgess Head Singer Larry Monoessy Arena Directors Travis Codynah & Freddy Banderas Head Man & Lady Dancer Charles Tahah & Vylet Stonecalf Head Little Boy & Little Girl Dancer Jaxon Poemeceah & Yesenia Aitson Color Guard KCA Veterans Organization Co-Host Comanche Homecoming Honored Elder Betty Chasenah Drum Keeper Jonathon Lovejoy Security Jim Wade Concession Walters Service Club</p>	<p>Contests Coordinator: Ruth Factor</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>Women's Cloth Sponsor: OKC Fabric Market</p> <p>Teen Girls Cloth (13-18) Sponsor: Melissa the Quilt Lady</p> <p>Tiny Tot Contest Sponsor: Tim Monetatchi</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>Men's Lulu Contest Sponsor: Mike Burgess</p> <p>Men's Straight Sponsor: TBA</p> <p>Teen Boys Straight (13-18) Sponsor: Wahahrockah Family</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Special</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In Honor Of Tatum Burgess, Walters Service Club Jr Princess & Family</p> <p>Walters Service Club Royalty Sr Princess: Kyleigh Davidson Jr Princess: Tatum Burgess Lil Miss: Olivia Roberson</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Special Invite: Comanche Nation Sr & Jr Princesses, Tribal Leaders & Officials, and Tribal Organizations & Royalty</p>	<p>Women's Cloth Sponsor: OKC Fabric Market</p> <p>Teen Girls Cloth (13-18) Sponsor: Melissa the Quilt Lady</p> <p>Tiny Tot Contest Sponsor: Tim Monetatchi</p>	<p>Men's Lulu Contest Sponsor: Mike Burgess</p> <p>Men's Straight Sponsor: TBA</p> <p>Teen Boys Straight (13-18) Sponsor: Wahahrockah Family</p>
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Programs

CNP&R Works Tirelessly to Prepare for Comanche Nation Fair

Story by Brittany Turner/ Comanche Nation Prevention & Recovery Project Director



Courtesy Photos

Jessica Tahah and the 2023 Comanche Nation Princess, McKenzi Sovo, leads the MMIW Memorial Walk Sept. 26 at the Comanche Nation Complex.



Some of CNP&R staff with their winning parade float: MMIW/Native Spirit Walk.

Every year, the tribal and local communities marvel at the beauty of the tipis that are set up at the Comanche Nation Headquarters. In honor of the first 13 Comanche Nation Chairmen, some of P&R staff, residents, and former graduates set up 13 tipis this year under the direction of Martin Flores. Flores not only leads IAMNDN "Culture is Prevention" program, but is always willing to serve people and teach traditional ways. They are appreciative of Flores and he is truly a blessing to the Nation and department.

CNP&R's Native Spirit Project started off the CN Fair festivities by collaborating with the local MMIW Chapter to host this year's "A Walk to Remember" on September 26. Flores and Hah-tee Delgado started the event off in a good way with a ceremonial cedar and memorial song. The Lord's Prayer was performed by Comanche Nation Princess, McKenzi Sovo. Opening remarks were provided by MC Carla Whiteman, and guest speakers included Chair-

man Mark Woommavovah, McKenzi Sovo, Natalie Wallace from the MMIW Chapter, and Brittany Turner from the Native Spirit Project. Each shared their own messages of hope, healing, strength, and togetherness. More than 200 people walked in honor of stolen MMIW/MMIP relatives and those lost to suicide. An open mic session followed where families could share stories of their loved ones.

"To those who are hurting over the loss of someone, you are not alone. You are constantly in our prayers."

All hands were on deck for Saturday's events, which started off in the early hours of the morning before the fair parade. Promoting wellness and mental health within the community, CNP&R hosted their 2nd Annual 5k Fun Run/ 1-mile Walk. Although this was a non-competitive event, they still want to acknowledge the first overall female and male runners: Tamera Fragua, Kiowa/Jemez Pueblo and John Hiller,



Overall runners for the Fun Run with Chairman Woommavovah.

Pastor at Centenary UMC and member of Lawton Circuit Runners. If you were at the parade, you had the chance to catch more than just candy from the Prevention & Recovery and IAMNDN floats. T-shirts, IAMNDN notebooks and folders, and suicide prevention posters were among some of the items tossed out at the Parade. Prevention & Recovery is also excited to announce that for the second year in a row, the department won parade float contest.

Child Support Services Announces Court Dates In the Comanche Nation Tribal Court

• **Thomas Portillo:** CNCSP-23-26; Petition to Accept Transfer of Jurisdiction Under Title 3 of the Comanche Nation Child Support Codes, Rule 4 (E) (3) allows for service by publication in instances where the location of the subject is unknown or when the subject of service has been unable to be served by traditional means. The CNCSP is needing the above name(s) to be placed in our upcoming Comanche Nation Newspaper.

Please take note that all Comanche Nation Tribal Court child hearings will be conducted in person.

Please take note that all court of Indian offenses child support hearing will be conducted in person.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

MEDIA AWARD. Jolene Schonchin, director of the Public Information Office and editor of *The Comanche Nation News*, placed first in the "Best Sports Photo" category of the 2023 Native American Journalist Association (NAJA) Media Awards. She has been in the PIO Office since 1999, becoming the editor in 2006. The PIO has been a member of NAJA since 2001.



NUMUNU POWWOW 101

Join us in learning about Powwow Etiquette and the different styles of Tribal Dances. There will be Male and Female Dance Category Demonstrations & the opportunity to learn about singing at the Drum.

NEW DATE: Sunday, November 26th, 2023
1:00 P.M. - 5 P.M.
@ Comanche Nation Complex in Watchetaker Hall

Powwow 101 Co-Hosts
Comanche Princess Sorority
Comanche Youth Dancers
Comanche Academy
Comanche Language Department

CELEBRATING NATIVE AMERICAN MONTH

~ Lunch will be provided ~

Hosted By:
Comanche Nation Historic Preservation Office
For more Information, please contact THPO @ 508-492-1153

COMANCHE NATION INJURY PREVENTION PRESENTS:

SHINE A GREEN LIGHT FUN RUN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH, 2023
@ COMANCHE NATION POWWOW GROUNDS

COME CELEBRATE NATIONAL INJURY PREVENTION DAY

5K RUN **1M WALK**

RUN TO BEGIN AT 5PM
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

TO REGISTER CALL CN INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM: 580.492.3600

THE COMANCHE NATION OR ITS ENTITIES ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACCIDENTS OR INJURIES THAT MAY OCCUR AT THIS EVENT. ALCOHOL, DRUGS, AND WEAPONS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

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Culinary Corner/ Fun Page

NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Frederick ¹ 1st & 2nd Day	Walters ² 1st Day	Walters ³ 2nd Day	
	Cache ⁵ 1st Day	Cache ⁶ 2nd Day	Cache ⁷ 3rd Day	TRUCK DAY ⁹	CLOSED ¹⁰ Veteran's Day	
	Cache ¹² 4th Day	Lawton ¹³ 1st Day	Lawton ¹⁴ 2nd Day	Lawton ¹⁵ 3rd Day	Lawton ¹⁶ 4th Day	
	Lawton ¹⁹ 5th Day	Make-Up ²⁰ Day	Make-Up ²¹ Day	CLOSED ²³ Thanksgiving Day	CLOSED ²⁴ Thanksgiving Friday	
	Make-Up ²⁶ Day	Inventory ²⁷	Inventory ²⁸	Inventory ²⁹		

Greek Pasta Salad with Spinach

Ingredients

For the Greek Salad Dressing

- ¼ Cup of olive oil
- 3 Tablespoons for lemon juice
- 2 Tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 2 Cloves of minced garlic
- Salt and pepper

Greek Pasta Salad

- 8 Oz of uncooked penne pasta
- 6 Oz of freshly chopped spinach
- 1 Cup of yellow cherry tomatoes sliced in half
- 1 Cups of red cherry tomatoes sliced in half
- ½ Cup of black olives thinly sliced
- ½ Cups of crumbled feta cheese

Directions

1. Bring a large pot of water to boil. Add pasta and cook until done. Rinse with cold water, then drain.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together olive oil, red wine vinegar, and minced garlic.
3. In a large bowl, combine cooked penne pasta, chopped spinach, and sliced cherry tomatoes. Add sliced black olives and crumbled feta cheese.
4. Pour the salad dressing over the pasta salad. Stir to combine.

Leftover

Thanksgiving Turkey Sandwich

Ingredients

- 2 Slices of your choice of bread
- 1 Tablespoon mayonnaise
- 1 Slice of Swiss or provolone cheese
- ½ Cup of sliced or shredded roasted turkey
- 2 Tablespoons of leftover cranberry sauce
- ¼ Cups of salad greens or lettuce
- 2 tablespoons of unsalted butter

Directions

1. Spread mayonnaise on one slice of bread and top with cheese
2. Top up with turkey, cranberry sauce, and greens
3. Add the remaining slice of bread
4. Heat butter in a skillet over medium-low heat until melted. Place the sandwich on top and grill each side for 2-3 minutes until the bread is lightly browned and the cheese had melted.
5. Remove from heat, cut in half and serve.

Cranberry Sauce Oat Bars

Ingredients

For the Buttery Crust

- Brown sugar
- Butter
- Rolled Oats (not quick oats)
- All-purpose flour
- Vanilla extract
- Baking powder
- Pinch of salt

For the Pecan Oat Topping

- Melted butter
- Brown sugar
- Rolled oats
- Crushed pecans
- Ground cinnamon

Directions

1. To make the crust in a large mixing bowl, use a hand mixer or stand mixer to cream together butter with brown sugar until light and fluffy. Add rolled oats, flour, vanilla, baking powder, and salt. Continue to mix until fully combined. The mixture will resemble



Comanche Crossword

Yubaani (Fall)

Across:

4. chilly
6. acorn
7. bread
8. relatives/family
9. corn

Down:

1. pumpkin
2. harvest
3. hay
5. quilt
6. leaf

www.talkcomanche.org

We want to see what you are cooking! Send a picture of any of the recipes you try on the "culinary corner" page, and it will be in an issue of TCNN, and TCNN will mail you a gift of thanks. Email your name, picture, and which recipe you used to Heaven.Williams@Comanchenation.com.

THANKSGIVING CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

2. The quality of being thankful
3. The horn of plenty
4. The creator and ruler of the universe
7. A drink consisting of rum, brandy, or other alcohol mixed with beaten egg, milk, and sugar
10. A low-growing aromatic plant of the mint family
11. The seed-bearing part of a plant
14. Salted or smoked meat from the upper part of a pig's leg
15. A buddy
16. The act of collecting the grain, fruit, etc
17. Providing love or other emotional support; caring

DOWN

1. An assembly or meeting, especially one held for a specific purpose
3. Acknowledge (a significant or happy day or event) with a social gathering or enjoyable activity
5. A small savory ball of dough (usually made with suet) which may be boiled, fried, or baked in a casserole.
6. A formal evening meal
8. Eat (something) hurriedly and noisily
9. Friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests
12. A large meal, typically a celebratory one
13. A sauce made by mixing the fat and juices exuded by meat during cooking with stock and other ingredients.

Halloween Word Scramble

Unscramble the Halloween themed Comanche words and join them to the picture on the right.

hənəib kəoap hənəibi pəkəa
 pəteuiya pəteuyai
 iəpəpk pəkəpi
 təstəpəh təstəpəhə
 əwnkəis nəkwəsi
 stniupə tsunipə
 pəhəetjrs pəhəretsi
 htuyaku yuhutuka
 beko satʔanik kobe tsəʔnika
 isutimp mupitsi

www.talkcomanche.org

Pumpkin Cheesecake Bars

Ingredients

For Crust

- 24 Gingersnap cookies
- ½ Cups of pecans
- 2 Tbsp of sugar
- 3 Tbsp of unsalted butter

For Filling

- 2 8 Oz packages of room temp cream cheese
- ¾ Cups of sugar
- 3 Large eggs
- 3 Tbsp of all-purpose flour
- ½ Tsp of salt
- 1 ½ Cups of pumpkin puree
- 1 Tsp of pumpkin pie spice

Directions

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat 9 in square baking pan with cooking spray, then line with parchment, leaving overhang on two sides.
2. Making the crust: Using a food processor, pulse cookies, pecans, and sugar until finely

ground. Add butter and pulse to combine, then press evenly into the bottom of the prepared pan. Bake for 12 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack and let cool.

3. Meanwhile, making the filling: In a clean food processor, pulse together cream cheese, sugar, and eggs. Pulse in flour and salt to combine. Remove ¼ cups of mixture. Into the remaining mixture, pulse pumpkin puree and pie spice to combine.
4. Pour the pumpkin mixture onto the cooled crust. Drop a spoonful at a time of the remaining cream cheese batter on top of the pumpkin, then use a butter knife to swirl.
5. Bake until set at the edges but still slightly jiggle in the center, 30 to 34 minutes. Transfer to wire rack and let cool completely in pan, then refrigerate until chilled, for at least 2 hours. Serve.

Indigenous Peoples Day is Celebrated in Lawton, Okla.

By Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Lawton Indigenous Peoples Day was celebrated on Oct. 9, at City Hall in the morning and at Cameron University during the afternoon.

The morning events featured opening ceremonies by the Comanche Indian Veterans Association. CIVA Princess, Arlene Schonchin, attended, as well as Lawton Mayor, Stan Booker, and Kiowa Tribe Chairman, Lawrence SpottedBird.

Vice Chairman for the Comanche Nation Cornel Pewewardy, and one of the founders of Indigenous Peoples Day, said the first Indigenous Peoples Day was celebrated in 2018 and the second year at Cameron University (CU).

He said the importance of the celebration in Lawton is to make the invisible visible.

“What I mean by that metaphor is that we are many times not seen in the media, newspapers and television, and if it is our image, it’s usually not good news,” Pewewardy said. “We’d like to put out good news about the strengths and resilience of our people, that we were here first in this community before the city of Lawton ever was an idea. And so many of us that are descendants of Comanche, Kiowa and Apache, we celebrate this opportunity to not only embrace our history because our future is our history to share it with our generations that are yet to come but also our allies. Those that we partner with in the schools and universities and those in political spaces here in Lawton, Oklahoma, so we can grow together and we can celebrate together, such as these days with our relatives and our partners.”

Pewewardy said the day is about the festival and resilience of the Indigenous Peoples’ history and storytelling through songs, dances and food.

“We celebrate food sovereignty,” he said. “So, we educate not only ourselves about the sovereignty within our nations, but also the respect that we have in who we are as Comanches, Kiowas, Apaches, Wichitas, Delawares, Ft. Sill Apaches, Caddos; there’s so many nations that are a part of southwest Okla-

homa, so we share that history, and it’s rich because it’s all about resilience, it’s all about defending ourselves to be who we are in this day and age that tries to make us be like everybody else.”

Pewewardy said the day replaces the Columbus Day legacy.

“The Indigenous Peoples Day is not only a day to celebrate, but also, we replace a legacy called Columbus Day because many of us that know the story about Columbus and where he came from and what he tried to do that we were never discovered; we have always been here,” he said. “And we’re trying to celebrate our history and that we are able to not to replace Columbus Day, but to make an imprint in the consciousness of the community.”

Pewewardy said the day is for everybody to participate.

“Especially the school children that are here and are yet to be born,” he said. “That they can make an imprint about whose history that is here that we celebrate. ‘Whose land was it before the city of Lawton?’ ‘Whose land before Ft. Sill Oklahoma?’ It’s many of the nations that came here voluntarily, and some of them involuntarily. And so, we want to tell that story not only for our children but also those that are relatives that we take on as we move on. But the song and dance is for everybody. Not only us that are human beings but for the animals for the birds, the water beings, and all those that are relatives; we sing for that reason. And the season shifts into the wintertime as we think about why we’re here in the here and now. So, we celebrate every day as Indigenous Peoples Day.”

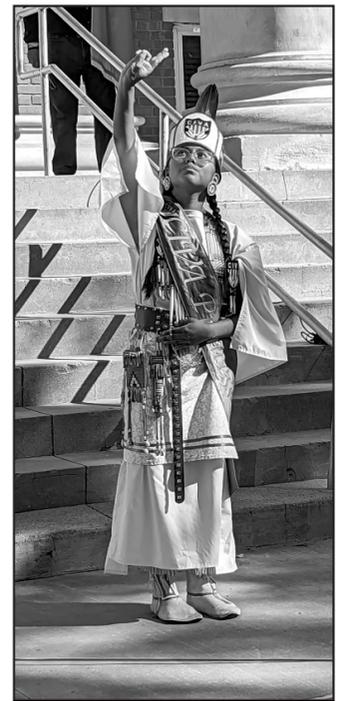
Those who attended the afternoon celebrations could see Mexican Folk dances, a Hindu singer and participate in Kiowa, Comanche and Wichita hymn singing. There were also Comanche dances and a hoop dancer.

Comanche Nation Princess, McKenzie Sovo, and Walters Service Club Princess, Kyliegh Davidson, also attended the Indigenous Peoples Day event at CU.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Jim Lookingglass leads the KCA Veterans during the Opening Ceremony of the Indigenous People’s Day at the Lawton City Hall the morning of October 9.



Courtesy Photo

The CIVA Princess, Arlene Schonchin, signs the Lord’s Prayer during the Opening Ceremony of Indigenous People’s Day October 9, at the Lawton City Hall.



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff

A little girl participates in the Buffalo dance at Cameron University on October 9 for Indigenous Peoples Day.



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff

The Comanche Nation Princess, Mckenzi Sovo, leads in the two step dance on October 9 at Cameron University.

2023 FALL / WINTER OPEN HANDGAMES SCHEDULE

OKLAHOMA vs CROW	
DATES	SPONSORS & LOCATION
November 8, 2023 Wednesday	North Spur Heights & Red Thunder Handgame Teams Kiowa Tribal Complex Community Center, Carnegie, Okla.
November 9, 2023 Thursday	Kiowa Kickers Handgame Team Kiowa Tribal Complex Community Center, Carnegie, Okla.
November 10, 2023 Friday	B.J. Tapedo Family Kiowa Tribal Complex Community Center, Carnegie, Okla.
November 11, 2023 Saturday	Bearshield Family & Oklahoma Indians Handgame Team Clinton, Okla.
November 12, 2023 Sunday	Joe Fish and Family Kiowa Tribal Complex Community Center, Carnegie, Okla.

Sponsors: Players, Guest, please take COVID Precautions!
Sponsors not responsible for personal loss, damages or theft
Have a Great Time! For additional info contact: Alan Yeahquo, 405-933-0789



Courtesy Photo

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY IN WALTERS. Students in the Walters School District celebrated Indigenous People’s Day on October 12. A mini powwow was held and students had the opportunity to participate and a series of dance demonstrations that were performed by the Native students to show our culture and heritage. Tipis were also raised for the occasion.

The Return of the *Nnumu Pukutsi* Reclaiming a Comanche Warrior Tradition

Submitted by William C. Meadows/ published in the *American Indian Quarterly* Vo. 4, No. 3



Courtesy Photo

Abstract: The *Nnumu Pukutsinnum*, were nineteenth-century Comanche (*Nnumunuu*) warriors who followed ritual contrary roles in combat and everyday life. Following the end of traditional Plains Indian warfare and their cessation. Comanches soon began regaining veteran status through service in the U.S. Armed Forces. While several Southern Plains tribes later revived traditional men's warrior societies and created veteran's organizations, none have formally associated a contrary status with newer forms of military service. In 2010 members of the Comanche Indian Veterans Association decided to reclaim this ancestral warrior status, bestowing it upon select contemporary veterans. In doing so, the Comanche continue a tradition of reviving important martial cultural symbols, blending them with U.S. Armed Forces service, insignia, and rituals, and demonstrating how the importance of Comanche military service and recognizing veterans continues in modern contexts and on their own terms.

Introduction

The Comanche have a long and rich military history. The major power on the Southern Plains through much of the 1700's and 1800's, they were a barrier to both Spanish and later American settlement in that region. Like many Plains tribes, the Comanche maintained a strong military ethos emphasizing economic and revenge raids as a major means to male social status. Close-quarters fighting was most honored; retreat brought dishonor. Leadership was acquired foremost through bravery in battle. The Comanche developed a number of military sodalities with police functions and fraternal ritual dance ceremonies. Commonly known as "contraries" in Plains Indian literature, were other individual warriors known as *Pukutsi*, who exhibited elevated forms of bravery in battle.

Although limited knowledge of the *Pukutsi* has survived, they still symbolize the bravest ideals of Comanche warriors or *tekwuniwapiinuu*. Most surviving information comes from interviews conducted with knowledgeable Comanche elders by the 1933 Santa Fe Laboratory of Anthropology Comanche Field-school led by anthropologist Ralph Linton. *Pukutsi* were a small number of nineteenth-century Comanche contrary warriors prior to the Comanche encapsulation on a reservation in 1875. There is no indication they ever formed a sodality-like contrary and so-called Dog Soldier societies or individual officers in other Plains military societies, but acted as individual contrary warriors from their respective bands. Lila Robinson and James Armagost define *Pukutsi* as "Crazy Warriors" and "men who did everything backward." Contemporary Comanche usually interpret the name *Pukutsi* to mean contrary or stubborn in behavior; or doing the opposite of what one is asked, told, or expected to do.

On August 16, 1933, Comanche elder, Frank Moetah, described the elevated combat obligations and unconventional behavior of warriors assuming the status.

Any man brave enough and with desire could become a *Pukutsi* on making up his mind. He could

never retreat in a raid. With a bow in one hand and a rattle in the other he would take his position and sing until victory or death. Should he give way after the fight is done, the other warriors would taunt him in an attempt to egg him into overt action so they could kill him. He carried a rattle made of a buffalo scrotum. He would go through camp singing no matter what else might be going on. He was never molested because he was so recklessly brave, no matter what his actions.

As in other Plains Indian military and contrary societies, *Pukutsi* practiced the traditions of staking oneself down in battle with a sash and fighting until victory or death unless released by a friend. Comanche elder, Frank Chekovi, told the Santa Fe Fieldschool on August 10, 1933: "The *Pukutsi* were called 'doing things backward.' He was a warrior who unrolled a red strip from his belt then shot an arrow into the end. Then he couldn't retreat unless a friend pulled it out." Elder Comanche consultant, Post Oak Jim, also related to the Santa Fe Fieldschool on July 26, 1933, that "the *Pukutsi* was a warrior who carried a roll of cloth under his armpit, fastened to his shoulder. In battle he would unroll the sash and shoot an arrow into the end. Thereafter he couldn't retreat unless a friend pulled the arrow out. Also he did everything backward. There was no vision before doing it (becoming one). He would shoot an arrow into a pot of meat, clowning, backwards talk, etc."

As Vietnam veteran, Ron Mahsetky, (Comanche) described, "Well, back in the old days, the Comanches, the *Pukutsi* at that time they would stick ... their sash in the ground with an arrow, a knife, or whatever and tie the other to their waist and stay there and fight to the death or until someone came and picked them up. They had such honor that they wouldn't do it themselves. I've heard there were people that actually died there because no one was around to unleash them."

An account of a *Pukutsi* was recorded from *Hekiya'ni* (or *Herkeyah*) in 1933 by the Santa Fe Laboratory of Anthropology Fieldschool.

Hekiyani knew only one. He went around the camp with a rattle, singing. He went in a tipi with a pot boiling over a fire and shot some arrows into the fire, and helped himself to what's in the pot, at it, and went to another tipi. He's sure always to do just what you don't want him to do. He wasn't brave, but wasn't afraid to do anything. A *Pukutsi* was going through camp singing as usual. An old woman stopped him and said, "*Pukutsi*, I want you to kill me a buffalo for my saddle; I have no boys to do it for me." He went and was gone for a long time. Finally he came back at night with a Pawnee's shin, with the feet and hands on it; he hung it standing on her arbor. He told the old lady her hide was on her arbor. She got up early and found it and was frightened. A man told her she shouldn't ask a *Pukutsi* to do such a job; he was afraid of nothing. She said she didn't ask him to bring her an enemy. But the old lady jumped and sing, she had an enemy scalp, which she kept.

Comanche elder, Frank Chekovi, gave a slightly different version of the account on August 10, 1933: A *Pukutsi* went through camp, entering tipis and singing. One old lady heard him and told him to get her a dakwa and make her a rode. He went on singing as if he didn't hear. That night he went on a war raid alone. Near an enemy camp he met and killed an Ogase. He skinned him out, leaving the head, hands, and feet on, then he hurried back. People didn't hear him coming singing. The woman came crawling out and reached up. She felt the hairless skin. She was scared, and called her husband. He brought a light and saw it was a human skin, and recognized the tribe from the hair dressing. Osages wore their hair clipped short and powdered with red in the old days,

maybe he had a crest down center of head; they looked terrifying.

Mrs. Laura Birdsong, a daughter of Comanche leader Quannah Parker, described the warfare behavior of men she referred to as the "Comanche Legion of Death" in 1956: Certain dauntless men. When (they) would meet an enemy, would drive a stake into the ground (their picket stake for their horse)-and tie themselves to it. If they retreated, they would be killed by members of the society. Some warriors had hooked sticks for this (stake pin) with a long spear-point at the bottom, decorated with two pits of eagle feathers. Legion of death membership usually ran in families, (though there were) no regulations regarding such. Children of Legion of Death members usually became members themselves, but (was) not compulsory. Used a rope, a brand new rope to tie themselves security to the stake. Must never turn themselves lose. Would carry (the) rope draped over (their) shoulder just as beads.

Anthropologist Robet Lowie, described a form of Comanche contrary warrior known as *Piatuhkapaekapit* or a Large Red Buffalo Meat that were "dauntless men," not associated with a special group, and practiced *nai inea paikit* (uncommunicativeness), "There was nothing distinctive in the dauntless men's garb. A blue or other cross was painted on the quiver of one of these men. They acted very quietly. The cross man had a singular tomahawk with a long blade, looking powerfully different from others. An eagle frather was tied to its handle (with a dark tip). He was killed by the Navajos." While it is unclear whether this was a group, social status, or an individual, Thomas Kavanah notes, a *Nokoni* leader by the name of Red Foot or Big Red Food and suggests that the name refers to a single individual. However, the clause "of one of these men" suggests there were others. Whether this was another name for *Pukutsi* or another type of contrary warrior is unclear.

The number and distribution of *Pukutsi* are unknown. Elder Comanche consultants that described *Pukutsi* in 1933 include: *Hekiya'ni*, a captive who resided at different times in the *Yapainuu*, *Noyuhka*, *Kwaharunuu*, and *Namruibetsi* divisions, and Frank Chekovi, Post Oak Jum, and Laura Neda Parker Birdsong of the *Kwaharunuu*. These accounts suggest that *Pukutsi* existed in several, if not all, Comanche divisions. *Pukutsi* may represent individual continuations of the *Kotsoteka* Wolves Society as the *Kotsoteka* splintered in the mid-1800s to form the *Peneteka* and *Quahada* divisions.

Younger Comanche now use the name in a different context. While most elders associate *Pukutsi* with pre-reservation contrary warriors, by the late 1980s I often heard the term used in joking fashion to refer to someone as stubborn, hard-headed, or "no good." However the historical memory of *Pukutsi* still graners respect and admiration in contemporary Comanche identity, symbolizing the epitome of Comanche martial bravery and ethos.

The Transition of Comanche Military Service and Recognition

Among many pre-reservation Plains Indians, military society ceremonies, naming ceremonies, song and dance, and giveaways were performed to honor successful returning war parties. Men often publicly recounted their war deeds, known as coup recitations. Similar to many groups, Comanche war parties, upon returning home, sent a runner in to announce their return. Members donned their best attire and paraded into camp as the populous turned out to cheer and welcome them. Taking the men's headdresses, weapons, and captured items, women began Scalp and Victory Dances, ululating (a high-pitched, long, wavering vocal sound) to honor the returning war-

riors.

With warfare and horse raiding prohibited upon entering a reservation in 1875, the status of Comanche warriors, like other tribes, became frozen and unobtainable for younger individuals. Much of their military cultural complex in the form of warrior sodalities and associated rituals (especially dances), declined or ceased. However, Comanche soon found new venues for obtaining warrior or veterans status by serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Chebatah (Mescalero Apache-Comanche) was the first Comanche to serve in the U.S. military as an enlisted scout from 1878-82 and the only Comanche awarded the Indian War Campaign Medal for service during the Apache Campaign. Designed to capitalize on their martial skills while increasing their exposure to non-Indian cultures, 15 Comanche serve as scouts around Fort Sill and Fort Concho, while 23 served in peacetime duty in the all-Indian U.S. Army Troop L, 7th Cavalry at Fort Sill from June 30, 1891, to May 31, 1897. Comanche began wearing U.S. military uniforms and insignia at this time. John Fredrick LeBarre served in Company F, 4th Texas Regiment, U.S. Volunteer Infantry in the Spanish American War in Cuba in 1898.

As with other Native Americans, Comanche military service began to take on a dual focus; protecting their people and remaining lands, while simultaneously defending Americans and the United States. Greater opportunities for military service continued during World War I, when more than 60 Comanche served. 23 served in Europe from which eight were wounded in action. Five Comanches served as code talkers in the 357th Infantry Regiment. A new generation of veterans had emerged and their service necessitated traditional gatherings to sing for the outgoing men, and Scalp and Victory dances to honor their return. Comanche World War I veterans were recognized at a gathering at the home of WWI veteran Herbert Hmovich near Walters, Okla. Historic photos show Comanche WWI veterans in uniform being honored with elders in traditional Comanche clothing and the American flag, with women often wearing headdresses and carrying beaded lances. As with many tribes, the Comanche composed a flag song, which remains their national anthem. Although, little details are known, some Comanche participated in the postwar American Indian Intertribal Veterans Association (AIVA). Comanche participation in the Comanche and Kiowa Parker-Iseeo American Legion Post from 1927 to 1929 furthered recognition and knowledge of their service. By the 1930s WWI veterans had assumed dominant roles in dancing and pow-wows.

In World War I, 218 Comanches served, with eight killed in action and 18 wounded in action. 17 created an extensive code in Comanche from which 14 served as Code Talkers in the 4th Infantry Division from D-Day at Normandy through the end of the war. Many had Christian Church, Native American Church meetings, and dances to bless and send them off. In the summer of 1946 the AIVA became active again under Lee Motah. Comanche WWII veterans were recognized at Herbert Homovich's residence with Scalp, Victory, and social dances. The practice of sending off and welcoming home veterans through song and dance at pow-wows was emerging. By WWII the practice of publicly reciting one's war deeds had changed to an elder relative or close friend asked to speak for someone being honored in public. As Lanny Asepermy explained, "Comanches do not do that anymore, they don't get up and talk about their war feats anymore. Someone does it for them by back then, they did. It was no dishonor to get up and talk about what you did in war. So this is kind of a continuation of what we did before we went on a reservation, and after when we were in the mod-

ern military uniform.

During the Korean War (1950-53) 143 Comanches served; with one killed in captivity, one missing in action and declared dead, and two wounded in action. In 1952, a celebration honoring returning Comanche veterans was held by the AIVA at Sultan Park in Walters, Okla. Gathering again the following year this gathering became the annual Comanche Homecoming that continues today. The large numbers of men serving in WWII and Korea led to a marked increase in pow-wows to honor the.

Widespread Comanche military service continued with the Vietnam War (1962-73) with 343 Comanches serving. Two were killed in action and 18 wounded in action. Pow-wows and other events to send off and welcome home returning Comanche veterans continued. During the Persian Gulf War (1990-91) 103 Comanches served, with none killed or wounded, while 108 Comanches served in Iraq and Afghanistan during the War on Terror (2001-21), with two wounded and one killed in action. Marine Brandon Allen (Comanche) served three tours in Iraq and fought in the bloody Battle of Fallujah.

Comanches have served in all conflicts and in peacetime in nearly all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces including the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Army Air Force, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, Reserves, Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WACS), Women's Marines, Women's Accepted Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVE), and Women's Air Force (WAF). They have served as infantry, medics, tank commanders, aircraft pilots, code talkers, in special forces, and other positions, and have earned ranks as high as Sergeant Major (Lanny Asepermy, Rudolph Kosechekquetah), Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Edward Yellowfish), Lieutenant (Michael Waddle), Captain (Johnny Tiddark, Coyce Choney, Ronald Parker, Edwin Chapabitty), Major (Vincent Myers Sr.), Lt. Colonel (Meech Tasequah, Ronda Chalepah Williams), Colonel (Raymond Portillo), and Brigadier General (Jonathan George). Five Comanches have graduated from U.S. service or military academies.

As women's roles in military service have broadened, more Comanche women are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Specialist 4 Eleanor McDaniel, saw combat in the Persian Gulf War, and Lt. Colonel Rhonda Chalepah Williams, who was awarded the Bronze Star and Combat Action Ribbon, is the most decorated Comanche female veteran. Iraq veteran Sergeant Lindsey Huston Griner, was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon and is the only Comanche woman decorated for valor (Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Valor Device).

Many Comanche service personnel have completed careers in the U.S. Armed Forces. Three Comanche individuals (Charles Chibitty, *Pukutsi* George Red Elk, and Cloyce Choney) and one group (the 14 Comanche Code Talkers) have been inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. From its origin in 1999 through 2020, only two hundred individuals and groups have been inducted (Asepermy 2017; OKMHF 2021). Many Comanches continue to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces and Reserve units.

Society Revivals

Native American veterans' organizations have received little academic attention. While Comanche veterans have been recognized in the Armed Forces, the Comanche have maintained the importance of upholding veterans and many of their traditional forms of honoring warriors, the term many Comanche veterans prefer. Many forms of cultural, linguistic, political, and economic revivals have occurred in Native American communities since World War II. Large numbers of Native American veterans in WWII (44,000), Korea

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(10,000), and Vietnam (42,000), led many tribes to bolster or revive many related traditions associated with honoring warriors such as blessing and cleansing rituals, forms of protective medicine carried in service, society dances and powwows, veteran’s songs, feasts, naming ceremonies, and giveaways. The reemergence of Native cultural and political forms are a major focus in tribes reclaiming sovereign rights, maintaining ethnic identity, and reestablishing cultural traditions.

Several Southern Plains Indian women’s service organizations were created during World War II. In 1946, the AIVA again became active under Commander Lee Motah (Comanche). Photos demonstrate that is was active during the 1952 honoring of Comanche veterans at Walters, Okla. Native veterans also began to be honored through the revivals of traditional military societies. Although some Natives joined VFW and American Legion Posts since WWI, they sought their own forms of honoring veterans, focused on song and dance, and essentially blended the two sets of military traditions. Expanding on the growing frequency of powwows since WWII and starting in 1957, the neighboring Plains tribes began reviving several of their men’s military and dance societies. Following the revival of the Kiowa Gourd Clan in 1957, some gourd dancers began wearing military insignia on their dance blakets. Revived in 1958, the Kiowa Black Legs Society also incorporated U.S. military insignia into their regalia. This trend spread to the Comanche, who began participating in Kiowa Gourd Dances around 1960.

The Comanche revived and formed five dance societies, including one of the original Gourd Dance societies, between 1970 and 1976. The decline of the AIVA was followed by the formation of the Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA). Blending Comanche traditions with military rites similar to American Legion Posts, the CIVA became recognition of Comanche military service.

The CIVA was formed in 1976 as an all-Comanche veterans society and held their first powwow, co-hosted by the Native American Church, that October. The organization has co-hosted powwows, provided guest speakers for school and military programs, participated in “send offs” (departures) and “home-comings” (return celebration) for soliders, and held monthly meetings in which veterans are honored. The CIVA also hosts three annual events: an Armed Forces Day Banquet, a Memorial Day Ceremony, and a Veterans Day celebration and dance. The CIVA adopted standardized red ribbon shirts and ball caps with organizational patches. In the 1990s this evolved to include blue vests, white shirts, black pants and berets, and bolos or neckties, blending beadwork, ribbonwork, and U.S. military and Comanche insignia.

Lances and feathered bonnets continue to be used in veterans dances and powwows. The CIVA maintain a *nahaikorohko* (crow necklace), a lance with a ring of crow feathers and an eagle feather decoration in front of the grip. In combat the bearer could not retreat until he had used it on an enemy. Later beadwork was added to the shaft and a crown of plumes at the top. The lance is posted between the Comanche Nation and Oklahoma state flags at CIVA events and carried in dances and to lead processions. Other veterans bring their own lances, some bearing the beaded patterns of U.S. military ribbons.

The society maintains historical records of biographies and photos of Comanche veterans. Over 400 articles on Comanche veterans have been published in the Comanche Nation News and other local newspapers. The CIVA are very active in honoring Comanche veterans and auxiliary members, and serving as color guards, funeral details, placing military markers for deceased veterans, conducting prayer meetings with veterans, and assisting the families of Comanche veterans and the Comanche Nation during natu-

ral disasters. The organization provides financial assistance to veterans, their families, and visit veterans in hospitals, veteran’s centers, nursing homes, retirement centers, and their homes.

The CIVA have led several projects to honor and commemorate Comanche Veterans including the development of the Comanche Court of Honor, the Comanche Code Talker Memorial, Tahsequah Garden, and the Comanche Veteran’s Patriot Room, all at the Comanche Nation Complex near Lawton, Okla. Other CIVA events honoring Comanche veterans have included leading visits to Utah Beach where the Comanche Code Talkers landed in WWII, the naming of the Native American Veterans Memorial Indian Road in 2017, and the Comanche Code Talker Memorial in 2018 and the naming of the Comanche Code Talker Trailway in 2019 near Walters, Okla. In 2006, the CIVA began presenting veterans with embroidered Pendelton Grateful Nation blankets, containing the insignia of U.S. wars, and other gifts at their monthly meeting. Their strong community commitment is well-known throughout the region. As one motto in the Comanche Nation Museum and Cultural Center veteran’s display states, “There is no greater honor than serving and the CIVA honors us by serving our Comanche veterans.”

Although other Native veterans’ organizations have been formed, including the Native American Veteran’s Association, the Vietnam Era Veteran’s Inter-tribal Association, Native American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, and tribal veterans associations, they have not been Contrary Societies, even in honorary form. Southern Cheyenne Military Societies (Dog Soldiers, Bow Strings, Kit Foxes, Elk or Crooked Lances) remain active in the holding of the annual Sun Dance, but no longer focus as veterans groups or conduct annual dances focusing on veterans.

Reviving the Pukutsi

After retiring from the Army in 1990, Vietnam War veteran and Sergeant-Major Lanny Asepermy (Comanche-Kiowa), returned to southwest Oklahoma in 1992 and became active in men’s society and powwows, including the Comanche War Scouts, a veteran’s honor guard. While attending the Kiowa Black Legs Society (*Tokogaut*) ceremony in October 1992, he noticed the names of Kiowa who were killed in action, died of wounds in captivity, or were missing in action and declared dead listed down the back of the society Battle Tipi and read aloud during the singing of the society’s two memorial songs. One of the names was his grandmother’s brother Mathew Hawzipta, who was killed in World War II. Asepermy grew up with pictures of Hawzipta and other relatives on the wall of his grandparent’s home. Upon seeing the tipi, he began to wonder how many Comanche veterans fit into this category. As he began researching and compiling data on Comanche veterans he discovered 13 had died in combat and five others had been prisoners of war. During this time World War II and Korean War veteran Melvin Kerchee Sr., and other Comanche elders told him of the *Pukutsi*.

Asepermy became active in the CIVA, becoming the organization’s historian. In late 2010, Asepermy suggested that the CIVA recognize Comanche veterans that had been individually decorated for gallantry, heroism, valor, and bravery, or that had fought and killed the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. From the Comanche perspective, this correlated with the ideals of the bravery and spirit of the earlier *Pukutsi*. His suggestion was embraced by Comanche Nation Chairman, Johnny Wauqua and CIVA Commander George Red Elk. The CIVA decided to “recognize and small, select group of Comanche veterans who went above and beyond in combat and who in doing so earned an award for Gallantry, Valor, Heroism, or Bravery” in the U.S. Armed Forces by bestowing the honorary title of “*Numu Pukutsi*” (Comanche Pukutsi) on these individuals. As Asepermy explained, “my research found that there were...17 Comanche

that were decorated for either Gallantry, Valor, Heroism, or Bravery, or they fought to kill the enemy in hand-to-hand combat and so this was sort to the criteria for the reinvention of the *Pukutsi*.” Asepermy compiled the discharge papers (DD-214) and citations of individuals qualifying for recognition then contacted and informed them of the organization’s desire to honor them and invite them to the ceremony. An 18 member was soon identified.

Vietnam veteran Cloyce Choney, described what he learned of the status, “*Pukutsi*, people left them alone because they were so brave and actually showed no fear. People were actually afraid of these guys, because there’s no telling what they would do...Lanny Asepermy, he asked me, he said, ‘Would you mind being included’ and I said, ‘No, that would be an honor.’ So he included me.”

On March 17, 2012, 18 individuals who had served from World War I to Iraq and from the rank of Private to Brigadier General, were honored as “*Numu Pukutsi*” at the Comanche Nation Community Center in Apache, Okla. Seven of these men, already deceased, were represented by their next of kin. With Sergeant-Major Lanny Asepermy as CIVA Historian and Master of Ceremonies, the program included a welcome by CIVA Chaplin Jimmy Caddo, and the National Anthem and Comanche Flag Song. Honors and special recognition, including the reading of each individual’s service record and the citation for which they were recognized for in their respective branch of the military, were read, followed by remarks by the recipients. After lunch the *Numu Pukutsi* Award ceremony was held, followed by remarks by more of the awardees, and a closing ceremony concluding with the CIVA’s organization song.

Each honoree was presented with a certificate and a medallion. Both were designed by Lanny Asepermy. Tom Henderson of TNS Printing helped finalize the designs. Before being handed out the medallions were blessed by Asepermy and George Red Elk. The medals were presented by Comanche Nation Tribal Chairman Johnny Wauqua, and the certificates were presented by CIVA Vice-Commander Jack Codopony, while the CIVA Auxiliary presented other gifts of appreciation to the men.

The front of the medallion bears the image of a *Pukutsi* who has staked himself down by shooting an arrow in his sash. He stands, bow and nocked arrow drawn, facing the enemy, with three arrows stuck in the ground beside his ready to shoot. To the right of the *Pukutsi* is the crest of the CIVA. Arched above these images are the words “HEROISM GALLANTRY VALOR,” and below the words “*NĒMĤ PUKUTSI*.” The image of the *Pukutsi* is adapted from a painting by Enoch Kelly Haney (Seminole). On the reverse of the medal is a list of U.S. Armed Forces Awards for heroism and valor, including in order: Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, Navy Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Soliders Medal, USN/USMC Medal, Bronze Star with Valor (W/V), Commendation W/V, Achievement W/V, and Air Medal W/V. Each Comanche honored as *Pukutsi* earned one or more of these awards during their military service.

The certificate that each *Pukutsi* receives bears the title “*NĒMĤ PUKUTSP*” between the crests of the Comanche Nation and CIVA. Beneath this reads, “*Any man brve enough and desiring to do so could become Pukutsi. No one ever molested a Pukutsi because he was so recklessly brave. In battle, he rolled out his sash, stuck the free end into the ground with an arrow and there took his stand. There are not many of these warriors among the Comanche.*” Below this, front and reverse images of the accompanying medals appear on each side of a list of the wars each recipient fought in. The recipient’s rank and name is followed by a summary of the military action they were awarded for, an image of that medal, thier branch and dates of military service, list of military awards, and the signatures

of the Comanche Nation Chairman and CIVA Commander. Each recipient expressed their gratitude for being honored for their military service. A special presentation was made by *Pukutsi* recipient Lucien Looking-glass, who gave each living awardee and eagle feather containing a hand-painted emblem of their branch of service. He continues to gift these to active CIVA combat veterans, some bearing the title *Pukutsi*.

Since the initial awards ceremony, ongoing research has identified other Comanche veterans who met this criteria, as recently as 2021. They or their next of kin have similarly been recognized during CIVA events or monthly meetings. To date, documentation confirming combat actions involving gallantry, heroism, valor, bravery, or fighting and killing the enemy in hand-to-hand combat have been found for 30 individuals. These include the following numbers of individuals by respective conflicts: WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Cold War, War on Terror Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Lanny Asepermy, reflected on the nature of the combat situations that lead to veterans being decorated. “When you’re decorated for gallantry or valor or any kind of heroism it’s unplanned. It just happens. You just happened to be at the wrong place at the right time, or the wrong place at the wrong time. And it’s a life-threatening situation. You have been trained, and you’re adrenaline brings the best out of you and it’s either you die or you kill whoever is trying to kill you. And that’s what happened with most of these people, they were in life threatening situations, their adrenaline kicked in, and they fought back and the were victorious.”

Combat Actions

Of the 30 modern Comanche Pukutsi, the following examples highlight some of the combat actions for which they were honored in the U.S. Armed Forces. Many of these actions mirror traditional Comanche and *Pukutsi* concepts of bravery in combat, such as attacking the enemy, standing one’s ground, disregard for one’s personal safety, ignoring wounds, and rescuing wounded comrades. They also exemplify how *Pukutsi* and related Comanche warrior traditions have been adapted to the context of modern combat. In World War I, Private Calvin Atchavit, of Company A, 357th Infantry, 90th Division, was serving at St. Mihiel. On September 12, 1918, “during the attack of his company, though he had been severely wounded in the left arm, Private Atchavit shot and killed one of the enemy and captured another.” He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Atchavit was also awarded the Belgian War Cross for using his Comanche language to talk over the lines while his unit was trapped by the Germans.

In World War II, Private Calvin Pohawpatchoko Sr., Company K, 255th Infantry, 63rd Division, was fighting near Bilesorucken Woods, France. When his platoon’s advance was stopped by enemy automatic weapons and small arms fire on February 13, 1945, Pohawpatchoko employed fire and maneuvered to an advantageous position where he assisted in silencing an enemy light machinegun and its supporting rifles. Advancing to the enemy position with another solider they killed one, wounded two, and captured five of the enemy. He was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor Device.

Comanche veterans continued to exhibit acts of valor associated with traditional *Pukutsi* in Vietnam. Retired Fort Sill Museum Director, Towana Spivey, conveyed information about Edwin Chapabitty, who served as a Forward Observer in Vietnam. Often journeying alone in the jungle to locate enemy forces, Chapabitty called in devastating air and artillery support on their positions. He became such a nuisance and attracted such intense hostility from the enemy that the North Vietnamese placed a bounty on his head that included a personal description of him. Not realizing that her was a Comanche/Apache solider, the Vietnamese initially described Chapabitty as a Filipino, and later as a Latino or Mexican solider. On one occasion,

as he left camp for a locale in dense and hostile jungles, his commander warned him that his life was in great jeopardy and that he might not return. Epitomizing the intrepid actions of a traditional Comanche warrior in a modern setting, he continued.

Exhibiting the *Pukutsi* tradition of standing their ground in battle are Eddie Mahseet and Ron Mahsetky. From Apache, Okla., and born on the same day, each served two terms in Vietnam, one together in the same company. Both fought in over 25 combat operations, including having their positions breached on at least four occasions and killing the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. On May 5, 1968, their unit was nearly over-run during Mini-Tet when NVA Regulars attacked their company about 2.5 miles east of Hue City along a narrow dirt road named Highway 552. Beginning around 3 a.m., fighting continued until 6 p.m. As Gary Jarvis recorded.

The skipper’s radioman LCpl Edmond L. Mahseet, while searching for a radio, was fighting hand to hand combat on the eastern sector of the perimeter, which was infested with NVA soldiers that had penetrated the perimeter boundaries. Even though it was dark, the silhouette of LCpl Mahseet’s eagle feather attached to his helmet made it relatively easy to distinguish Little Chief (as Eddie was called) from the enemy as he battled the NVA. Mahseet courageously silenced many of the loud yells emanating from the attacking NVA soliders...

Mahseet was told to go get a PRC-25 radio because his radio had been hit. As he left the company Command Post and got no more than 50 feet on the east side of the perimeter he encountered NVA soliders coming out of a ditch near where other Marines were in defensive positions. Mahseet fired his M-16 and emptied the magazine. Before he could reload, an NVA solider was right on top of him. Mahseet hit the NVA solider across the face with the butt of his rifle and stabbed him in the throat with his K-Bar. Another NVA solider came at him. Mahseet grabbed his AK-47 as he fired-the round went up in the air, he then stabbed him with his K-Bar in the chest and throat. Mahseet then used the dead NVA soldier’s AK-47 to shoot another NVA soldier and fired at other NVA soldiers approaching the perimeter from out of the rice patties on the eastside of the perimeter.

After emptying the AK-47, Mahseet discarded the rifle, returned to his Command Post, and informed his Company Commander of the enemy penetration of their perimeter.

As Mahseet described the fight in an interview: The fight was total chaos, it was dark except for the illumination of parachute and hand flares, green (enemy) and red (friendly) tracer rounds were being fired everywhere, Marines and the enemy yelling and screaming, artillery rounds, rocket propelled grenades, satchel charges and hand grenades exploding inside and outside the perimeter. It was a living hell. Meanwhile, Mahsetky (Big Chief as he was called) was fighting on the opposite end of the perimeter. I heard he was “hit” and ran over a quarter of a mile fighting off the enemy before finding Mahsetky in his “fighting hole” smoking a cigarette. When I told Mahsetky I heard he was “hit” Mahsetky said he was okay and was just taking a short break. After we took a short “smoke” together we continued the fight of our lives.”

The fighting continued until 6 p.m. Although the Marine outpost held and the numerically superior NVA force was repelled, it came with a high cost. 24 Marines were killed and wounded, while an estimated 60 NVA were killed. Mahseet and Mahsetky were awarded Presidential Unit Citations, which warrant equivalent gallantry to the Navy Cross for gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing their mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm device for deeds of Valor and Heroic Conduct in combat, and two Combat Action Ribbons. Because of their hand-to-hand

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PUT THE DISHES AWAY – IT'S TIME TO PLAY!

After the Thanksgiving feast is done - come in and get \$100 Cash if you're sitting in our Hot Seats! Play your favorite slot machines with your Comanche Rewards Card for at least 2 minutes to qualify and drawings are every hour. Fall In To Win!

See Comanche Rewards Club for details.

Serving Up The Holidays

MONDAYS • NOVEMBER 6-27 • 10AM-11PM



You'll Be Thankful For These Beautiful Serving Dishes!

Earn 200 points on Mondays to receive a gift beginning November 6-27.

While supplies last. See Comanche Rewards Club for details.

GOBBLE UP SOME WINNINGS

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
NOVEMBER 3-25 • 7PM-11PM

Waddle In To Win At The Spur!

Spin to win Cash or Comanche Credit on our Progressive Jackpot Wheel! It starts at \$350 Cash and grows by \$350 Cash each night until someone wins! Or you can win up to \$100 Comanche Credit - drawings are every 30 minutes! Earn E-drawing entries for every 5 points on your Comanche Rewards Card from 10AM-11PM, November 1-25.

See Comanche Rewards Club for details.



GET 3¢ OFF EVERY GALLON!

MEMBERSHIP HAS IT'S BENEFITS!

Sign up for your Comanche Rewards Club Card and stop by the Comanche Red River Travel Plaza and Casino or Comanche Spur Quik Stop and use your Comanche Rewards Card to earn up to 3¢ off each gallon of gas. Be sure to grab a hot, delicious treat and a cold beverage as well! Use your card, get a gas discount and win with us!

See Comanche Rewards Club for details.



COMANCHE NATION CASINO



COMANCHE SPUR CASINO

COMANCHE CARLS FOUNDATION

TOY DRIVE

TUES-THURS
NOV. 7-DEC. 14
NOON-10PM

IT'S THE SEASON OF GIVING!
When you purchase and donate a brand new toy, just show your receipt and you'll get **DOUBLE** the amount (up to \$50) in Comanche Credit! Thanks for giving and winning and being a part of something great!

See Comanche Rewards Club for details.

Comanche Elder's Day

EVERY SUNDAY!

Comanche Rewards Club Members who are Comanche Tribal Elders receive \$20 Comanche Credit on your Comanche Rewards Card every Sunday.

See Comanche Rewards Club for details.

HEROES DAY

COMANCHE NATION CASINO TUESDAYS
COMANCHE SPUR CASINO MONDAYS

HEROES CLUB

See Comanche Rewards Club for details.

COMANCHE NATION ENTERTAINMENT

ComancheNationEntertainment.com

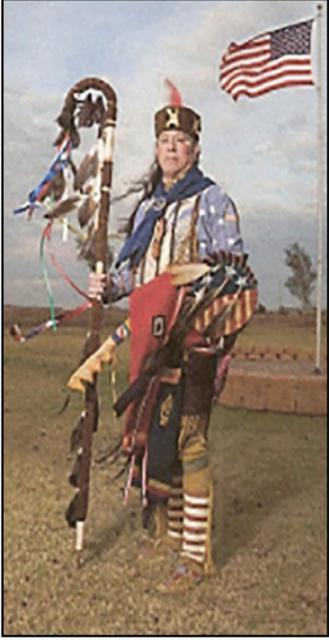
SENIOR DAY

COMANCHE NATION CASINO MONDAYS
COMANCHE SPUR CASINO TUESDAYS

See Comanche Rewards Club for details.

ASEPERMY

Continued from Page 1



Courtesy Photos



Asepermy



Lanny Asepermy was inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor in a private ceremony at his home in Apache, Okla., on October 1. Members of the Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA) participated in the ceremony.

truly exhibits the Hall of Honor ethos of Spirit of a Warrior, Heart of Patriot.” The citation further reads “SGM Lanny Asepermy, A Vietnam combat Veteran August 1969 to August 1970 is hereby inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor October 1, 2023.” Signed by Major General Douglas O. Dollar, Founder, Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation and Colonel Jerry Shiles, President, Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation. Asepermy was also presented with a new CIVA vest by Commander Kevin Pohawpatchoko.

He has served as an Ambassador in Charge for the OKMHOF since 2011 and has successfully had George Red Elk and the fourteen Comanche Code Talkers inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2011; the Choctaw Code Talkers in 2012; the Pawnee Code Talkers in 2014 and Cloyce Choney in 2021.

Asepermy served in the US Army from March 8, to October 1, 1990 (24 years, 6 months and 23 days retiring as a Sergeant Major (E-9). He is one of only four Comanches to earn the highest military enlisted grade of E-9 along with Rudolph Kosechequetah (Army Sergeant Major); James Saryerwinnie (Navy Master Chief Petty Officer) and Randall Eckiwaudah (Marine Corps Master Gunnery Sergeant). He and Kosechequetah are also the only Comanches to graduate from the US Army Sergeants Major Academy. In addition he is one of four Comanches awarded the Legion of Merit (the fourth highest non-combat military award). Other Legion of Merit awardees include Brig Gen Jonathon George (awarded four times), LTC Kyle Smith and LTC Gerald Woommavovah. Asepermy, Frankie Patterson and Stephanie Brown

He was raised by his grandparents, George Sr. (1908-92), a full-blood Comanche and Hattie Jones Asepermy (1907-84) a full-blood Kiowa. His mother is Ruth Asepermy Myers (1926-2017). He graduated from Apache high school in 1965. He and his wife, Shelley Klinekole Asepermy have been together since 1992 and reside at the Asepermy home-place west of Apache. They have six daughters, sixteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

During his time with the War Scouts and CIVA his biggest supporter was his wife as she fabricated over a hundred CIVA Service shawls, about seventy-five CIVA Service blankets and close to fifty Battle Dresses for Auxiliary members. She and her husband placed the first twenty-seven military markers for the families of deceased veterans.

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Continued from Page 10

combat, Mahseet and Mahsetky are viewed with immense respect in the Comanche Nation and exemplify the Pukutsi ethos.

In modern forms of combat unavailable to traditional *Pukutsi*, other awards for valor have come in the air. On April 24, 1944, Captain Vincent Myers, who completed 45 combat missions, was participating as group bombardier in the 340th Bombardment Group (M) in a raid on the heavily defended railroad bridge at Orvieto, Italy. During their bomb run, direct hits from intense anti-aircraft fire heavily damaged his plane, critically wounding the turret-gunner. Despite extreme difficulty in maintaining the plane on a straight and level course, Myers directed his pilot on a precision bomb run, resulting in his formation covering the objective with a devastating pattern. When mechanical failure prevented the lowering of the plane's landing gear upon approach to their base, Meyers assisted others in working the emergency release system to enable the pilot to land the stricken bomber safely for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

On his third day flying, helicopter door gunner Joseph Plata volunteered to go on a mission. Under heavy enemy automatic weapons fire, he provided suppressive cover fire from his craft, then exited his helicopter, and helped pull out the pilot and another crew member from a downed helicopter, and get them loaded. Although their own aircraft was heavily shot up, they escaped. Plata received an Air Medal with Valor Device for this action. Plata was later wounded and was shot down a total of five times in Vietnam.

On May 4, 1986, Captain Jonathan D. George, was piloting a Lockheed U-2 high altitude reconnaissance aircraft at 60,000 feet when it suddenly developed full nose down, runaway trim. Quickly exceeding maximum speed and facing imminent structural failure and loss of the aircraft, George took countermeasures for dive recovery, requiring a "tight-rope combination" of physical strength to correct the aircraft's altitude and finesse to avoid stalling the aircraft. Continuing to descend, constant "yoke pressures varying between 70 to 200 pounds brought Captain George to the brink of physical exhaustion." His exceptional flying skill, strength, and resolve allowed him to land the craft safely and prevent losing an irreplaceable national asset. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

When retreating in combat, turning back to rescue a dismounted or wounded comrade from the enemy was a highly honored war deed among pre-reservation Comanche. Several Pukutsi were decorated for rescuing wounded comrades. On January 30, 1966, Lance Corporal Lucien "Jimmy" Lookingglass, serving as a Fire Team Leader with the Second Platoon of Company F, Second Battalion, Ninth Marines, was operating with a combat patrol when it was ambushed by a numerically superior enemy force. In the midst of intense small-arms and mortar fire, Lookingglass observed a Viet Cong soldier attempting to wrench a weapon away from a wounded Marine. Without hesitating, Lookingglass shot and killed the Viet Cong, then, with complete disregard for himself ran to his comrade. With immediate first aid prohibited by the intensity of the action, he picked up the wounded Marine, carried him through the ongoing fire to a position of relative safety, and treated him until relieved by a corpsman. Saving the life of his comrade, he was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V" device.

On November 23, 1968, Lance Corporal Phillip K. Rogers, a Fire team leader in Company L, 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines, was participating in Operation Meade River southwest of Danang, when their unit came under heavy small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire from an entrenched hostile unit. Sustaining several casualties and realizing the situation, Rogers maneuvered across fire swept terrain to his fellow Marines. Disregarding his own safety he assisted in moving his injured comrades to positions of relative safety. His timely actions inspired

those around him and were instrumental in saving the lives of several Marines. Rogers was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" device.

On July 13, 1969, PFC Rudolph Kosechequetah and a Specialist Young, HQ 1st Bde, 5th Infantry Division Mechanized, were given the mission to apprehend Vietnamese who were throwing grenades into the perimeter wire at Landing Zone Sharon. Identifying the enemy's position atop a small hill they started up a hill beside a lake when Young was blown from his feet by a mine. The concussion threw Kosechequetah back to the edge of the lake, inflicting sharpnel wounds to his head and face. Despite Young informing Kosechequetah that he was in an unmarked minefield and to stay away, he reentered. Diregarding his own safety he picked up Young, placed him over his shoulders, and carried him to safety. Ignoring his own wounds, he remained with Young for 20 minutes, administering first aid for his wounds and shock until relieved by medical personnel. Kosechequetah received the Soldier's Medal.

As warfare has changed so has the context of situations for demonstrating valor. The following action epitomizes the *Pukutsi* concept of standing one's ground in battle, while supporting others in a modern context. In 2007, Specialist Kristopher Wermey was serving as a Mortar Squad Leader in the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division during Operation Achilles in Afghanistan. On April 12, his 81mm mortar section was attached to the battalion Scout Platoon then conducting armed reconnaissance near Chakah, Helmund, Afghanistan. Around 0900 hours they came under fire from over 100 Taliban fighters. Using heavy suppressing fire and RPG munitions the enemy quickly maneuvered to within 50 meters of the American forces. Wermey began firing fire missions on his gun, ensuring accurate firing data and moving to hang rounds and resupply ammunition. While under heavy enemy fire, he fired numerous mortar missions at ranges within 100 meters with expert precision.

As the Taliban attempted to flank his firing position from the south, Wermey sent his gunner to suppress the enemy maneuver while undertaking the duties of the entire mortar crew alone. With enemy fire landing within 15 meters of his exposed position, he continued to both gun and hang his own rounds with great speed and accuracy. His devastating fire was vital in holding the enemy assault at bay for more than seven hours. Wermey also acted without regard for his personal safety by resupplying the gunline and security perimeter with ammunition between fire missions. Through his efforts and timely and accurate mortar fire, Wermey was credited with killing a Taliban ground commander and decimating two separate enemy fighter cells. His efforts allowed scout and mortar elements to suppress and destroy over 70 Taliban fighters, greatly aiding in the success of battalion operations in the Sangin River Valley. He received the Army Commendation Medal with Combat "V" device.

Once limited to males, the increasing participation of women in combat operations led to Sergeant Lindsey Huston Griner becoming the first, and to date the only, Comanche woman decorated for valor and recognized as a *Pukutsi*. During Operation Iraqi Freedom Griner served as team leader, 1st Platoon, Truck Company, Headquarters Group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward). As Vehicle Leader, Assistant Convoy Commander, and Convoy Commander, Griner covered 4,800 miles on 35 convoy security export missions in Anbar Province. She distinguished herself as a combat leader on four occasions involving enemy Improvised Explosive Devices; immediately moving the convoy beyond the kill zone, establishing security, and assisting with medical evacuations. During an escort mission on September 18, 2006, and while under enemy small arms fire, she directed her section to return suppressive fire, then positioned her vehicle to shield unarmored commercial trucks they

were exorting from enemy fire. Griner was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (with Combat Distinguishing Device), and the Combat Action Ribbon. These examples demonstrate that modern Comanche veterans continue to exhibit acts of combat valor in new contexts deemed equivalent to the bravery and spirit of the *Pukutsi*.

Additional Recognition and Reflections

Native Veterans organizations are embracing their history broadly through increasing dances, honoring ceremonies, museum displays, service activities, documentary films, news releases, memorial markers, and signage. At the Comanche Nation Complex the CIVA Court of Honor consists of several upright red granite dyes, containing the names and information on all known Comanche veterans since their service as Indian Scouts in the 1870s. The "*Nuṃṃ Pukutsi*" dye lists those decorated for gallantry, heroism, valor, bravery, or hand-to-hand combat on the face, and a list of Comanche warriors killed in action or wounded in action on the rear. The dye holds great meaning for the tribe and individuals named on it. As *Pukutsi* and Vietnam veteran Michael Waddle reflected, "For somebody to say that you're a real mad-dog warrior, which is really what that means, it's just carrying somethings that's an honor that goes all the way back ... to when they were nomadic, they were roaming the plains. It's an honor that's almost more than you can bear. It's a lot. I was there the day they sat the walk of honor and set the stone that has my name in it and it's like looking at the wall, the Vietnam War Memorial. It's just a lot to take in."

The CIVA members and *Pukutsi* that I have known do not sit around telling war stories at their meetings but focus on the camaraderie, service, and emphasis on honoring Comanche veterans associated with the organization. Accounts involving combat sometimes come out between members at times and in interviews. The Comanche veterans I have visited with are very modest about their service and the military honors they have garnered, including those who have been recognized as *Pukutsi*. As Vietnam veteran and *Pukutsi* Ron Parker described, "Well, I guess it's been really well received. It means an extraordinary warrior, a crazy warrior...I don't know if I was that category. I did what I had to do, let me put it that way. Nothing extraordinary on my part." Often, I learn of veteran's combat achievements from other members rather than the individual involved. Members I have visited with express great appreciation for receiving the *Pukutsi* award, while remaining modest. In receiving the *Pukutsi* and other awards from the CIVA, Parker explained, "I appreciate that. I don't know if am a *Nuṃṃ Pukutsi*...(They) said the courageous were over there. You just react to a situation as anyone would. So I was no brever than the rest of my guys there." Another in-

dividual stated simply, "A *Nuṃṃ Pukutsi* (Contrary warrior)...that's who I am."

Several members expressed their appreciation for being recognized as a *Pukutsi*, the camaraderie between the members and in the CIVA, and to Lanny Asepermy for leading the effort to do so. Several CIVA members, including those recognized as *Pukutsi* have commented on how participation with other veterans in the CIVA, and the support and recognition it has brought them, has helped with their Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and problems with alienation, anger, and alcohol. In Native communities, telling stories of struggle and strength are an important catalyst for unity, healing, and personal growth. The ability for veterans to share their combat and post war experiences with fellow veterans is often paramount to opening up, healing, and recover. Many of the CIVA, including some of the *Pukutsi*, actively seek out and work with veterans they can tell are struggling with PTSD.

Reflecting on his participation in the CIVA and recognition as a *Pukutsi*, Vietnam veteran Mike Waddle remarked, "I've never had anything like that happen to me in my life...I'm in a line of men that earned everything they got and I'm not sure that I've done the same thing. But you know, for some reason, the Comanches think that I have and they've given me that honor and I accept the honor and I'll never be anything but grateful for that. It's totally changed my life...They've honored their people that deserve being honored, and I think single-handedly, more than anyone, for the most part, whether anybody is willing to give him credit or not, that's a Lanny Asepermy thing."

Including only 30 of 1,288 (2.32 percent) known Comanche veterans since WWI, the *Pukutsi* represent and small select group of warriors. At least nine of the 30 (30 percent) were wounded. Presently, 15 of the 30 men recognized as *Pukutsi* are living. Although, maintaining no organization or meetings, many are active in the CIVA. As Lanny Asepermy explained, "This is...recognizing a very small, select group of Comanche veterans, who went above and beyond in combat and did something to earn an award for gallantry, heroism, valor or bravery. Some were decorated two or three times." Lieutenant-Colonel Meech Tahsequah was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Purple Heart with an oak leaf cluster. Cloyce "Chuck" Choney was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor and the Purple Heart twice, each time leading a counterattack on Vietnamese forces; while George Red Elk, after being shot in the hand, continued to lead his tank crew in combat until passing out from loss of blood nearly 45 minutes later. Edward Clark received three awards, one each for gallantry, valor, and heroism. Brown Yackeyoney Lightfoot was decorated

twice for valor and once for bravery. Edwin Chappabitty, Edward Clark, Lawrence Kassanavoid, Brwon Lightfoot, and Meech Tahsequah were each decorated three times."

Conclusion

Entering combat unarmed and staking oneself down are neither permitted nor strategically practical in the modern U.S. Armed Forces. However, the pride of coming from a warrior society, and the principals of bravery, serving and protecting their people and land, and more recently the United States, remain strong among the Comanche. Despite the impacts of colonization and forced assimilation, the Comanche have found ways to maintain and grow their military traditions. Respect for and honoring of veterans remains an important part of the Comanche ethos. The *Pukutsi* are a recent form in a series of new traditions focused on honoring Comanche veterans. Through the CIVA, the traditional Comanche honor of the *Pukutsi* is now awarded to their highest decorated veterans. Modern Comanche veterans who "went above and beyond" have been recognized in the U.S. Armed Forces with medals, and now in Comanche terms-as *Pukutsi*. Representing the closest correlations available, these individuals exemplify how traditional combat and continue to exhibit the spirit associated with that traditional warrior status. While medallions and certificates may have replaced rattles and sashes, the Comanche commitment to military service remains. The *Pukutsi* represent an important addition to the syncretic blending of past warrior and modern military service in Comanche culture and ethnic identity.

The revival of the *Pukutsi* in 2011 has been well received among the Comanche Nation. Representing a revival of past culture, some Comanche state that it is also appropriate and within the prerogative of Comanche veterans to do so. Members express pride, honor, and surprise in being recognized. *Pukutsi* George Red Elk reflected, "A lot of people didn't know anything about it. A lot of Comanches didn't know about it. But it was received well...I felt good about it. I was proud of getting it." Reflecting the link to traditional Comanche culture, *Pukutsi* and Captain Cloyce Choney noted, "They respect it because it's an honorific from our ancestors." When she received the *Pukutsi* Award, Lindsay Griner stated she was, "Surprised, because I didn't expect it. Now, years later, I am honored. It's a part of history that my daughters can be proud of." The revival of the *Pukutsi* status exemplifies the Comanche reclaiming earlier cultural forms, redefining them on their own terms, and the continued importance of veterans in Native ethnic identity. Reflecting the larger ongoing revival of Native American cultural forms, *Pukutsi* Michael Waddle explained, "Tribes have regained their culture and they've grabbed back on to things that matter as far as the Indian Nation is concerned, and they've taken care of their own."

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Military News

Submitted by Kevin Pohawpatchoko/CIVA

Upcoming Veterans Day Message:

November 11, is Veterans Day and it carries a special meaning, as Veterans Day approaches. We must never forget the sacrifices Comanche Veterans have made to serve our Great County in Peacetime and during a time of War. We as Comanche People must listen and take pride in our Comanche Nation Veterans and listen to the stories what his/her service meant to them. While Veterans Day will forever be a cause for celebration and a time to honor the sacrifices of Veterans, this day is regarded as a day of opportunity—a chance to remind our Comanche People about the challenges our Comanche Nation Veterans face during and after service, so that we can ensure they are properly taken care of not only physically but mentally.

On this Veterans Day, please continue to support our Comanche Nation Veterans. They are the backbone of our Great Nation. Celebrating their lives and sacrifices is an honor and privilege. This Veterans Day, we commemorate the sacrifices of those who continue to carry the wounds, both mentally and physically, from their fight for the cause of FREEDOM, some FREEDOMS we enjoy today, and sometimes take for granted not knowing the sacrifices they made and the scars they carry.

We (CIVA) Honor all our Comanche Nation Veterans on this upcoming Veterans Day. Here are few of our Comanche Nation Veterans who have answered the call to fight for the cause of FREEDOM, LIBERTY, and JUSTICE:



Stormy M. Garia Bennett
PFC USA
Aug. 21, 2002-Dec. 29, 2004



Matthew D. Issac
SPC USA 2000-03



John C. Parker
LCPL USMC 1982-86



Michael R. Caddo
YNSN USN 1986-90



Alf R. Key
PVT USA 1967-70



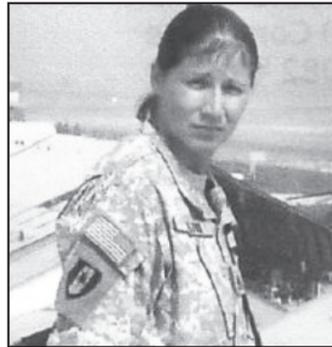
Donald M. Peterson
SCM USN 1992-16



Jennifer Debouver-Mihecobey
SPC USA 2003-07



Joseph J. Koweno
CPL USMC 1999-03



Deborah A. Niedo Rettig
SSG USA 1988-2010



Eddie W. Ahdosy
SGT USAF 1964-72



Ronald Galindo Jr.
SGT USAF
March 3, 1987-May 5, 1991



Tiffany Lee LeBarre
USMC



Tanner L. Satepauhoodle
SGT USA 2009-present



Ricky D. Arterberry
TSGT USAF 1984-04



Erin Heminokeky
USCG July 9, 2013



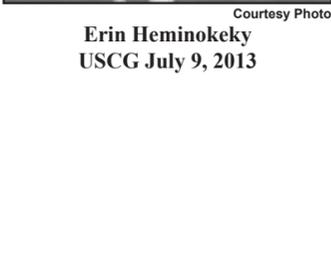
William Parker Malone
USA
July 10, 2012-July 9, 2016



Vena J. Tahkofper
SPC USA 2002-05



Darren G. Asepermy
PFC OKARNG 1984-91



Donny Nagel
PO3C USN 1992-96

Parker, CIVA photographer, historian, and grandson of the Comanche Chief Quannah Parker. At 5 p.m., the flag was retired and presented to the Parker Family. The CIVA joined the family in a War Dance and Gourd Dance Honor songs for the deceased. **SATURDAY:** The day began with the raising of the flag of (*Numu Puksutsi*) Lewis Chasenah at 8 a.m., by the CIVA, afterwards the CIVA greeted the family and took photos with them. The CIVA Color Guard led the parade, with Major Kent Tomah, U.S.A carrying the U.S. Flag; Comanche Flag carried by CIVA Commander, Kevin Pohawpatchoko; the Oklahoma Flag carried by James Czerniak; the Code Talker Flag carried by Roger Tehauno; the CIVA Flag carried by Vice Commander John McClung, and the POW/MIA Flag carried by Ramonah Davis, CIVA Vice Chaplin. Current CIVA member Ricardo Flores held a re-enter song to re-enter the arena. He mourned for one year and re-entered, The CIVA danced with him. At 5 p.m., the flag was retired and returned to the Chasenah family. CIVA had their Special during this time. The CIVA led in the Grand Entry which consisted of many, many dancers. The CIVA requested Sgt Tennyson Kerchee, to lead the procession in honor of his service. He also led the procession out after the presentation of the flags. **SUNDAY:** Began with the raising of our own CIVA member (*Numu Puksutsi*) George Red Elk. (This took place after 8 a.m., due to the Cedar Smoking Ceremony that was in process. After the flag was raised, the CIVA greeted the family and took group photos. The family provided coffee and sweets for breakfast for anyone participating in the flag raising ceremony. The *Tu Wee* dance was performed and two of the CIVA Ladies Auxiliary participated in the event, Suzanne Patterson and Christine Armstrong. At 5 p.m., the CIVA retired the flag and returned it to the family. This was a hard ceremony as George Red Elk meant a great deal to all.



Preparing for Color Guard to lead the Parade.



CIVA Princess Arlene Schonchin



During the Grand Entry, Tennyson Kerchee was Welcomed Home from deployment.

2023 Comanche Nation Fair

CIVA was honored to serve as the Color Guard & Co-Host for the 2023 Comanche Nation Fair. CIVA Officer's, Veterans, Princess and Auxiliary would like to thank the Comanche Nation Fair Board and the Powwow Committee for making our Comanche Nation Fair a success!!!

FRIDAY: The event began at 8 a.m., with the raising of the Flag of one of our own (*Numu Puksutsi*) Ronald

Milestones

Happy Belated Birthday!

October 1 - Rhoda Kowena
October 3 - JT
October 25 - Cassandra Mithlo

Happy Birthday!



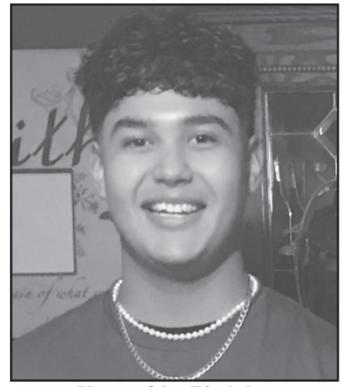
Happy Birthday
Michael Frickie
November 5



Happy 5th Birthday
Brynlee McClung
November 16

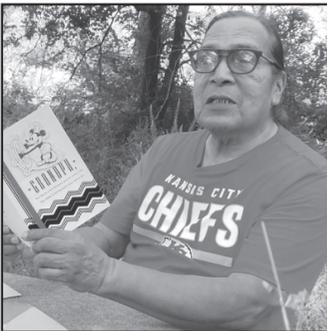


Happy Birthday
Tony Tahpay
November 19



Happy 21st Birthday
Ronnie Zavala
November 24

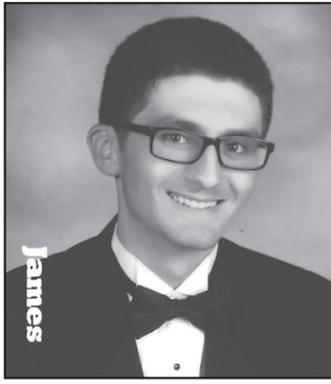
November 2 - Wesley Kopad-
dy "Happy 30th Birthday!"
November 4 - Angela Ro-
chelle Knox "Love you mean
Kiowa Girl"
November 4 - Rosalind Nau-
ni Asetamy "GOD Bless you
always"
November 5 - Michael Frick-
ie
November 6 - Derrick Nauni
November 11 - Chloveta
Woottakewahbitty Caudill
"Happy Happy Birthday to my
Big Sis!"
November 16 - Brynlee Mc-
Clung
November 19 - Tony Tahpay
November 22 - William Old-
ham "Happy 14th Birthday!"
November 24 - Ronnie Za-
vala
November 25 - Debbie
Woottakewahbitty Mileto
"Happy Happy Birthday to my
Big Sister!"
November 25 - Melvin
Kerchee Jr.
November 28 - Kaydence
Frickie
November 29 - James Muncy
November 29 - Mona San-
miguel "Happy 24th Birth-
day."
November 30 - Marland
"Tah-Wee" Delaware
November 30 - Mariah Wa-
hahrockah
November - Shannon Charles
Connywerdy
November - Candida Pekah
November - Juan Escoto



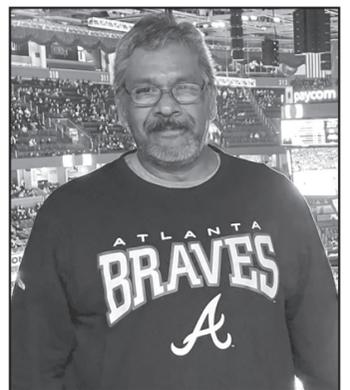
Happy Birthday
Melvin Kerchee Jr.
November 25



Happy Birthday
Kaydence Frickie
November 28



Happy 24th Birthday
James Muncy
~ Happy 24th James! We love you,
Nana, Papa, and Paco!
November 29



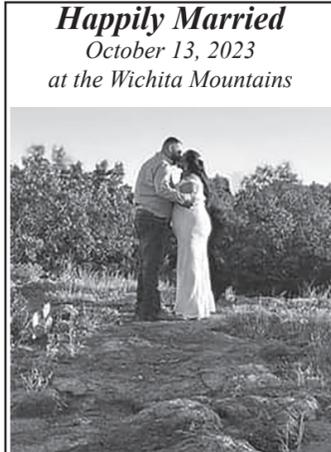
Happy Birthday
Marland "Tah-Wee" Delaware
November 30
~ Wanting to wish our dad and the
best grandpa ever a very Happy
Birthday! Wishing you many more
Dad, we love you!



Happy 17th Birthday
JT
October 3

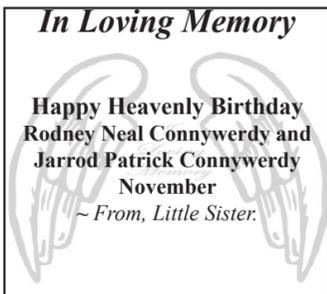


Mike and Gail Frickie
November 13
Celebrating 47 years of Marriage!



Happily Married
October 13, 2023
at the Wichita Mountains

Congratulations!
Courtney Renee Taylor and
Alejandro Martinez Jr.



In Loving Memory
Happy Heavenly Birthday
Rodney Neal Connywerdy and
Jarrod Patrick Connywerdy
November
~ From, Little Sister.



In Loving Memory
Happy Heavenly Birthday
Vanessa Tahpay
November 24

The Comanche Nation
News
December Edition
Deadline:
November 15
Email:
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"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if

there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you."

Philippians 4:6-9



Obituaries

Anakin Leonard CreepingBear



Courtesy Photo

CreepingBear

Anakin Leonard CreepingBear, went to his heavenly home on Sept. 15, in Lawton.

CreepingBear, was born Dec. 29, 2003, to Marion CreepingBear and Susie Beaver. CreepingBear attended Lawton Christian School and graduated from MacArthur High School Class of 2022. He was saved and was a member of the Lawton Christian Center.

CreepingBear enjoyed playing basketball and playing with his beloved dogs Ducee and Gracie. He also enjoyed hanging out with his friends and family and playing his favorite game, "Fortnite."

CreepingBear was a proud member of the Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma. He also was of Comanche, Pawnee, Otoe Missouriia, and Cheyenne-Arapaho decent.

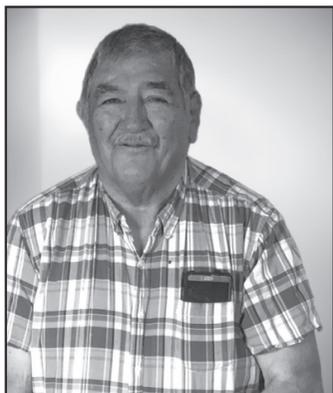
He is survived by aunt and uncle Valerie and Samuel Rucker; brothers: Patrick Allan Shields, Jordan Shields, Demetrius Shields and Caleb CreepingBear, of the home; Uncle Nasharo CreepingBear; sisters: Taylor CreepingBear, Carly Wahnee and Sierra Beaver; maternal grandmother, Henrietta Beaver; niece, Aaliyah Shields-Dent; as well as numerous family and friends.

He is preceded in death by grandparents Marion Leonard CreepingBear and Vivian Veronica Attocknie; maternal grandfather, Alton Beaver; aunt, LaCota Attocknie; and uncle, Patrick Newton Shields Jr.

CreepingBear was lovingly raised by his Aunt and Uncle Valerie and Samuel Rucker. He was raised alongside his cousins who were his brothers; Patrick, Jordan, and Demetrius. "If one was present, you knew the others were close by".

He was greatly loved, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

John Koweno



Courtesy Photo

Koweno

John Koweno "Big John" "Bones" went to his heavenly home on Sept. 21. He was born to George William Koweno Sr. and Juanita Pruneda Sanchez Koweno on Jan. 16, 1950, in Lawton. He married Mary Lou Koweno on May 27, 1974.

Koweno graduated from Indianhoma High School Class of 1969, he went on to earn a Bachelors of Science at Cameron University and obtained a teaching certificate.

Koweno, was a sports fanatic, he enjoyed watching all sports on T.V. and he also enjoyed coaching. He was the assistant coach, alongside his son JW, at Indianhoma High School as well as coaching numerous baseball and basketball teams. He was a Drivers Ed Instructor at Treasure Lake Job Corps for 33 years.

And drivers ed instructor for Indianhoma High School. He was also a proud member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

Koweno was a man of faith and served as a Deacon of Post Oak Mennonite Church.

He truly, never met a stranger and could find common ground with anyone. He loved his family and his friends, genuinely. He was silly, and enjoyed cutting up, laughing, and storytelling. He loved telling jokes with the kids, and was the best grandpa. He would let his Grandkids get away with anything. He loved to cook and made the best tamales, chili, and stew. He also enjoyed cars, photography, music, reading his bible, fishing, and gardening.

Koweno was an amazing man who lead a life of service to God, his family, friends, and students. He leaves an amazing legacy of love, laughter, and just the best times. He was genuinely loved, and will be greatly missed by all that knew him.

He is survived by his children: Jenny, Becky, John (JW) and Shyanne Koweno, and Stephanie and David Armstrong; three siblings: Bill and Sandy Koweno, Lorene and Ronny Bowen, and Mike Koweno; five grandkids: Zoey, Madison, Adley, Lynnex, and Nokona' 12 nieces and nephews: Don, Ronny, Chris, Brian, Jeffery, Andrea, Andrew, Kristina, Jessica, Nathan, Katie, and Larissa.

He is preceded in death by his parents, George William Koweno Sr., and Juanita Koweno, brother George Koweno Jr. and Sister Elizabeth Koweno.

Ronnie Dale Karty



Courtesy Photo

Karty

Ronnie Dale Karty, went to his heavenly home on October 10, in Lawton, Okla. He was born on November 6, 1958, to Don Jose Karty and Betty Mae (Cobahtine) Karty.

Karty was a graduate of Fort Sill Indian School. He enjoyed and thrived in athletics and was awarded a baseball scholarship after High School. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, shooting darts, and playing pool. He was apart of a Champion Dart League, winning numerous competitions, including the Coors Light Dart Championship.

He was a proud member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. Karty was a man of prayer, he enjoyed attending and assisting in the Native American Church along side his nephew Travis.

Karty is survived by Son, Londen Murphy Karty of Grove,

Okla.; Daughter, Donnetta Rae Hartmam of Grove, Okla.; Uncles, Delbert Karty and Mike Karty; Aunt, Joella Cullen; Grandchildren, Donnie Ray Moore, Skyler Miser, Katie Miser, Sophie Lasiter, Aaron and Alex Moore, Isaac Dean Karty, Kaya Karty and Amadia Karty; Cousins, Paula Karty, Cricket Karty, and the Martinez family. Special niece, Delayna Karty and Special nephew, Travis Codynah.

He is preceded in death by his parents Don Jose Karty and Betty Karty; Grandparents, Joe Murphy Karty and Bessie Karty; Brother, Donnie Karty; and Aunt, Barbara Yackeschi.

never met a stranger, anywhere he went he was greeted and there was always someone happy and excited to see him. He made numerous friends during his years of traveling.

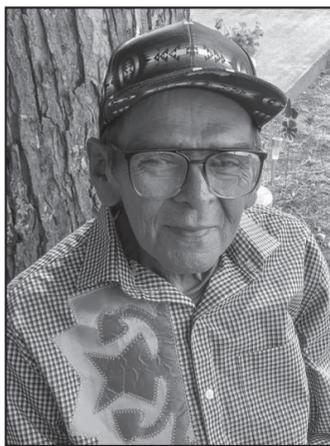
He founded The Southern Boyz Drum Group in 1997. Along with his sons nephews and grandsons Southern Boyz recorded several CD's, competed in drum competitions, and held host drum honors. The Southern Boyz Drum Group became well known and Cable became affectionately known as "Popz" among singers across the nation. He was also an original member of Eagle Claw Singers and Grey Eyes Singers.

Cable was a full blood member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. He was well known and well respected amongst the Native American Community, far and wide. He was greatly loved, and will be genuinely missed by all that knew him.

He is survived by wife Kay Cable; daughter, Jerre Cable McCormack(Eric); sons: Darrell Cable Jr.(Robert Tiger), Kelly Cable (Casey Tsoodle) and Andrew Bert; adopted children: Corey Hindsley and April Clairmont; sister, Wehnona Stabler; dad, Frank McClellan Jr.; grandchildren: Chayton, Takoda, Braelyn Jay, Kylene Stump, Everett Danforth, Roderick Cable, Lerris Keahna-Cable, Olowan Waste, Win La Plante, Penny Cable-Cleveland, Skyler and Taylor Clairmont, Elizabeth and Sophie Tiger; great-grandchildren: Randy Cable and Rylee Clairmont.

He is preceded in death by his parents; paternal grandparents: George Cable and Yivah; maternal grandparents: Louis Tippiconnie and Jane Pennah-Hendrix; siblings: Ruby Marie Cable Bigbow and Carmen Vasquez; uncles and aunts: Veronal Pennah, Laverne Pennah, Phillip Hendrix Sr; Anita Pennah-Campbell, Sandra Hendrix-Shico, and Florian Hendrix-Burgess; cousins: Chucky Shico, Susie Hubbard, Kevin Hendrix, and Daisy Burgess; and nephew Marvin Chasenah.

Darrell George Cable Sr.



Courtesy Photo

Cable

Darrell George Cable Sr., "Popz" went to be with his loved ones on Oct. 5. He was born to Orville George Cable and Rowena Marie (Pennah-Tseele) Cable on May 28, 1955.

Cable graduated from Eisenhower High School Class of 1973 and attended Oklahoma State Tech in Okmulgee. He married the love of his life Kay Youngman in 1979. And they made their home in Geronimo. He worked for Howard Smith Ford, The Comanche Housing Authority, and The Comanche Nation before retiring due to health reasons.

Cable loved to travel and enjoyed singing at pow wows. He



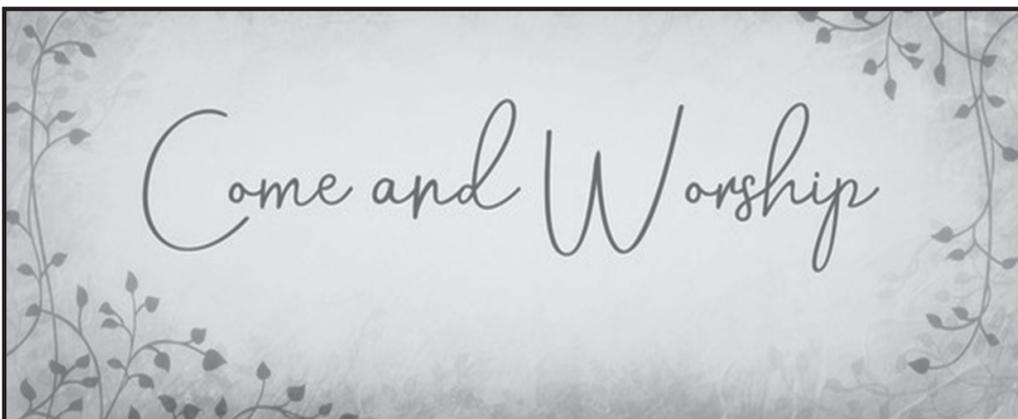
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**HAPPY
Thanksgiving**

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Vetreans Day and
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for Thanksgiving**



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Deacon Dale Ellsworth

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