



## **Sovereignty and Cities, United Strength Tribal Leaders and Panelist Bios**

### **Lisa Johnson-Billy, Speaker, Chickasaw Nation Legislature**

Lisa Johnson-Billy is serving her 13<sup>th</sup> year in the Chickasaw Nation legislature where she is currently the Speaker. Lisa previously served in the Oklahoma House of Representatives (2004-2016), terming out of office in 2016. While in the Oklahoma legislature Lisa served as chair of appropriations for public safety and higher education and served as a deputy whip. She was the chair of the federal-tribal relations committee and created the Native American caucus. In her final two years of office, she was appointed the majority floor leader. In 2019, the Oklahoma Senate unanimously approved her appointment to serve as the first cabinet secretary for Native American affairs. While in the Oklahoma legislature Lisa authored numerous pieces of legislation including tribal housing, tribal law enforcement & jurisdiction (recognizing tribal police authority for state crimes on tribal land) and allowing tribal languages to be recognized as a world language and part of the Oklahoma PASS objectives in the curriculum.

Lisa was inducted into the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame and was recognized as outstanding alumni at Northeastern State University in 2018. The State Trooper Association and Oklahoma Public Employee Association have both honored Lisa as the legislator of the year. She received the Kate Barnard award for her work on prison reformation and the Oklahoma Spirit Award. She was also recognized as one of 50 most influential women by the Journal Record. Lisa was an Aspen Rodel Fellow in 2014 and was confirmed as a trustee for the Udall Foundation by the US Senate in 2017.

Lisa and her husband, Air Force veteran, Phillip have been married for 31 years. They have three young adult children who each serve in the military. They enjoy tribal activities and are active at Landmark Church and Cornerstone Indian Baptist.

### **Stan Booker, Mayor of Lawton, OK**

Stan Booker graduated in 1974 from Eisenhower Senior High in Lawton, OK, and attended Cameron University. He married his high school sweetheart, Paula, in 1975 and has one son, Brian, who is married to Allison, and they have two daughters, Julia and Anna.

Always entrepreneurial spirited, Stan has been self employed since he was 24, first in the Convenience Store business and later Real Estate Development & Investing.

During his career, Stan has always been involved in the community and served in many civic organizations. He is an encourager of community involvement, believing that the best communities have the most citizens giving back.

After a steady decline in hearing ability, Stan had been hindered in his service to the community, as communication became more and more challenging. After receiving cochlear implants in May of 2015, his ability to serve his community was returned. A few months later, he founded the Lawton Rotary Leadership Institute and served as its first Chairman and continues to produce leadership events for the organization. The first event had 300 attendees and has grown into a much-anticipated event attracting as many as 1300 attendees annually.

In 2018, Stan was elected as Mayor of Lawton and serves in that capacity today. He has worked to build public confidence by pointing the community to the future. In his first year in office, he promoted and passed a record Community Improvement Plan that would invest heavily in Economic Development initiatives and Quality of Life amenities that would make Lawton a community of choice for young families. Other key initiatives have been to build even better relationships with Fort Sill and the Native American Tribes. He currently serves as a Senate appointment to the Oklahoma Advancement of Wellness Advisory Council, and a Governor's appointment to Governor's Council for Workforce for Economic Development.

### **Dr. James C. Collard, Director of Planning and Economic Development for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN)**

Dr. Collard is currently the Director of Planning and Economic Development for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN), a Native American Tribal Nation. In this capacity he evaluates and facilitates business development proposals and tribal franchise opportunities. He also compiled and manages the CPN Economic Development Strategy. He is currently developing Iron Horse, a rail-anchored industrial park that serves as a destination for Foreign Direct Investment and Import/Export Center for U.S. domestic companies and is the only currently active Foreign Trade Zone (magnate site within FTZ 106) on Native American land. He is a Fellow and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the International Economic Development Council. Dr. Collard holds the prestigious Certified International Trade Professional designation from the Forum for International Trade Training (FITT) and in June 2022 was elected to the Board of Directors for FITT. He is also on the Executive Committee of the International Inter-tribal Trade & Investment Organization (IITO).

Dr. Collard is a current member and Past Chair of the OK Governor's International Team and is a member of the Oklahoma District Export Council. He has traveled extensively internationally on business and as a participant on trade missions and diplomatic delegations. He was recently asked to provide testimony before the U.S. Trade Representative during the USTR Consultation Hearings. He is also the co-founder and chair of the Tribal-Municipal Dialogue, a group dedicated to increasing cooperation between tribal & local governments. He is currently working with the University of Oklahoma - College of Law on Indigenous Human Rights issues and serves as a Professor of Practice within the University of Oklahoma Regional and City Planning Program. Prior experience includes service in the U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard (obtaining the rank of Captain); seven years as a police patrol officer; seventeen years as a city manager, and five years as an executive in the environmental services industry.

### **Durell Cooper, Chairman, Apache Tribe of Oklahoma**

Chairman Durell Cooper is the Chairman for the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma. His focus is on creating positive change and increasing the quality of life for tribal members through various creations of economic development, creating budget and increasing the relationships with local & state leaders.

Before being elected as Chairman in March of 2019, Chairman Cooper was elected as Secretary/Treasurer in April of 2018, where he served in multiple capacities for the tribe, including: Housing Commissioner, Health Board Representative, and Head of Economic Development. He earned recognition as the youngest elected tribal leader of the tribe at the age of 25.

Chairman Cooper has a Bachelor's Degree from Haskell Indian Nations University and a Masters of Indian Law in Indigenous Peoples Law from the University of Oklahoma.

### **Deborah Dotson, President, Delaware Nation**

Deborah Dotson is the first woman elected President of Delaware Nation (2017) and elected to a second term (2021). During her first term as president, Ms. Dotson provided proven leadership and worked alongside with her governing board to promote changes that benefited Delaware Nation's citizens, by eliminating blood quantum, removing BIA from the Constitution, filing suit against the FCC to protect sacred sites and filing suit against Governor Stitt to protect gaming,

Before her presidency, Ms. Dotson served on the governing board as a Committee Person for 2 years. This experience provided greater insight as to how the governing board can provide guidance to move the Nation forward. It was this positive experience that led her to run for the office of President in 2017.

Prior to her work at Delaware Nation, Ms. Dotson worked as a successful paralegal for 16 years. With each experience and opportunity in her career, it is her firm belief that it is her responsibility to make a difference and to improve life for others.

Ms. Dotson is honored to represent Delaware Nation and work diligently to protect the Nation's heritage, Culture and Sovereignty.

### **Dr. Kathleen Elliott, Tribal-Municipal Affairs Specialist, Oklahoma Municipal League**

Kathleen believes in building "unity and community"! She is contracted with the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML) to serve as their Tribal-Municipal Affairs Specialist. As a citizen of the Muscogee Creek Nation (MCN) and recently as their Government Relations Specialist, she embodies building a solid foundation for the next generation of citizens, along with tribal and municipal leaders who work cooperatively together for them. Shared citizenry efforts build successful communities.

Additional to working with OML, Dr. Elliott's professional focus is that of a moonlighting practicing optometrist with a background in legislative advocacy, and pediatrics with residency in ocular disease in which she lectures nationally.

Board service includes 5 years as the Sec. Treas. of the Oklahoma Board of Examiners in Optometry, ICM ministries and most recently as a Board Member for CAN (Child Abuse Network). She values her background in healthcare legislative advocacy and participates in consulting with Premier Solution Partners, offering solution-based healthcare tools on a large and small scale.

From Bristow, Oklahoma, Dr. Elliott received a President's Leadership Class Scholarship, earning BS and Doctor of Optometry from NSU in Tahlequah, and previously worked in

healthcare in both Cherokee and Muscogee Creek Nation health systems. Her hobbies include horseback riding, hiking, and she has two children in college.

Her philosophy is one of gratitude and honoring those who have gone before us to pave the way for those that follow. "We stand upon the shoulders of giants who have gone before us" - Native American Proverb

### **Mike Fina, Executive Director, Oklahoma Municipal League**

Mike Fina is a native of Piedmont Oklahoma. He graduated from Texas State University where he was active in student government and played fullback on the Bobcat football team.

In 1999, Mike began working for the Oklahoma House of Representatives and served a number of roles before becoming Press Secretary to the Speaker of the House.

After leaving the Legislature, Mike was the Spokesperson for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. He also served as Aide to former Corporation Commissioner Jim Roth, and served as Chief of Staff for former Lt. Governor Jari Askins.

In 2006 Mike was elected to the Piedmont City Council and the following year was elected Mayor. In 2010 he was honored by the Oklahoma Municipal League as the Mayor of the Year.

In 2011 he launched a consulting and public relations firm serving mostly regulatory clients. In 2014 he was asked by a telecommunications client to serve as President and did so until accepting his current position as Executive Director of OML.

During his tenure with OML, Mike has served on numerous boards and commissions. He was selected to serve on the National League of Cities Board of Directors and in that capacity was asked by the President of the organization to serve on the Budget Committee. For the past year Mike has served on the Rural Broadband Expansion Council and the Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission and was recently named as the Chair of the Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board.

### **H. Victor Flores, MBA MHA Oklahoma Tribal Finance Consortium, President and REDW, LLC, Principal**

Victor is a passionate business leader focused in Indian Country. He passionately pursues excellence, adventure and authenticity in life. He holds a Master's of Business Administration and Finance from Oklahoma Christian University and a Master's of Healthcare Administration and Accounting from Trinity University in San Antonio, TX. With his financial acumen, he has taken a leadership role in supporting the advancement and promotion of the economic impact that Tribal Nations have throughout Oklahoma. He is the President and Founder of the Oklahoma Tribal Finance Consortium. He is also a Principal for REDW, LLC and runs the Oklahoma regional office. REDW, LLC is the nation's largest accounting firm serving Indian Country. He has successfully completed and rolled out the Oklahoma Native Economic Impact Study ([www.oknativeimpact.com](http://www.oknativeimpact.com)).

Prior to his current roles, Victor has served in many tribal government and enterprise leadership positions as well as senior leadership positions in private sector healthcare organizations. Victor is a major advocate for financial literacy and education.

Along with being an adjunct professor for Southern Nazarene University, he was also instrumental in creating the OSU Tribal Finance and Accounting program. He serves as a regular speaker at many economic roundtable summits and public education opportunities. His emphasis has been to educate Oklahomans and Oklahoma businesses on the value, partnerships and support Tribal Nations consistently and traditionally provide to Oklahoma communities throughout the state. He also routinely hosts the Celebrating Tribal Communities event which brings together Oklahoma state legislature, state community leaders, state business leaders and tribal leaders to recognize and applaud the collaborative efforts of Tribal Nations with Oklahoma communities and Oklahoma businesses.

Additional to his Tribal Government efforts, Victor also serves the greater Oklahoma City community on multiple Chambers of Commerce including OKC, Asian Chamber, American Indian Chamber and Hispanic Chamber. His philanthropy efforts include education efforts at various universities, financial literacy efforts, serving on multiple community boards, and supporting numerous non-profit organizations. Victor is a servant leader that is enthusiastic about serving his community and the state of Oklahoma. He has an abundance mindset and endeavors to support collaborative efforts between organizations throughout the state in hopes that all of Oklahoma rises together. "There is immense power and sustainable economic progress when communities unite together in mutual respect to achieve a common goal", says Victor, in which he strives to exemplify in his leadership roles.

### **Rob Griffin, Tribal Broadband Coordinator, Choctaw Nation**

Mr. Griffin has over 20 years of experience in delivering technology-based solutions. This includes connectivity for small, medium, and enterprise-based corporations throughout the United States.

He is currently the Tribal Broadband Coordinator for The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and a member of The Choctaw Nation.

Most of these designs are focused on getting secure, reliable Internet connectivity to end users at multiple locations

He has worked with tribal governments, casinos, including healthcare and education primarily for the last nine years.

He is now squarely, focused on delivering the same type of connectivity throughout the Choctaw Nation in southeastern, Oklahoma.

He is a USMC Reserve Veteran, attended school at the University of Oklahoma, and a graduate of Leadership Native Oklahoma in 2017.

He holds multiple certifications in various technology disciplines. Including networking, security, and fiber optic delivery.

### **Zechariah Harjo, Acting Secretary of the Nation - Muscogee (Creek) Nation**

Zechariah Harjo is a citizen of Muscogee (Creek) Nation, where he serves as the Deputy Secretary of the Nation & Commerce. The Deputy Secretary of Nation and Commerce coordinates all activities associated with Muscogee Nation's uniform commercial code, economic development, financial literacy, policy support and guidance, project management,

and technical assistance. Within the Department of Commerce, Mr. Harjo oversees the Office of Planning and Grants, Self-Governance, the Mvskoke Loan Fund which is the Nation's Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), Marketing and Tourism, the Recreation Department, the MCN Tribal Utility Authority, and the Contracting and Employment Support Office (CESO). Mr. Harjo has had formal education, training and experience in grant financial management, public administration and policy development, economic development, taxation and tax law, project management for Tribal and Federal agencies, and ten years of customer service experience. He has a bachelor's degree in public administration and public policy from the University of Kansas and a master's degree in legal studies from the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

Mr. Harjo began work with the Nation as the Project Development Coordinator for the Secretary of the Nation and Commerce in 2019 and in 2021, he became the Secretary's Policy Analyst and Director of Self-Governance. At the end of March 2022, he was named the Deputy Secretary of the Nation and Commerce and has since been named as the Acting Secretary of the Nation. In all of these roles, he has helped research, develop, plan, manage and execute enterprises that enhance the economic livelihood of the Muscogee Nation such as, the Muscogee Nation 2017 and 2019 Economic Impact Report, the 2017 and 2019 All Oklahoma Tribes Economic Impact Report, the MCN Business Prospectus and Opportunity Zone Plan, the MCN VITA-TCE Tax Program, the MCN COVID-19 Business Relief Program, the FCC 2.5GHz Tribal Priority Window, the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), and much more.

### **Terri Parton, President, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes**

Terri Parton currently serves as the President for the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes. She is an enrolled member of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes. She graduated from Gracemont Public Schools. She has a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration and a Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law. She has worked for the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes for 25 years beginning her service to the Tribe in January, 1998.

President Parton has worked in several capacities for the Tribe throughout the years. Her first job at the Tribe was a Water Technician where she also assisted with the tag office. She then served as the Tribal Government Services Specialist where she performed work in the Enrollment Office, Tag Office, Burial Assistance, Children' Clothing Assistance, Elder Payments, National Park Service Grants and other capacities. President Parton has also written several grants on behalf of the Tribe. She also taught the Wichita Language Classes for three years with Doris McLemore from 2006 to 2009 and taught classes when time permitted over the next 7 years. The Wichita Language Classes were held on Sundays from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with approximately 20 children and were 8 to 9 week classes. The children in the Wichita Language Classes performed annually at the Oklahoma Native Youth Language Fair at the Sam Noble Museum and during Wichita Night at the Wichita Annual Dance. President Parton also participated in the Breath of Life Workshop in 2012 at the University of Oklahoma Sam Noble Museum where she did work with the Wichita Language.

President Parton has served on the Wichita Annual Dance Committee, Foster Care Review Board, Wichita Tribe Industrial Development Commission and served as Secretary for the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes from July 2004 to August 2011. President Parton previously on the Wichita Gaming Oversight Subcommittee in her capacity as Secretary for the Tribe and currently serves on the Wichita Gaming Oversight Subcommittee reinitiated in 2020. She currently serves on several boards on behalf of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes including the Southwest Oklahoma Inter-Tribal Health Board, Board Member of the Southern Plains Tribal

Health Board, WCD Enterprises, LLC and an alternate SAMHSA Tribal Advisory Committee member for Oklahoma for the national advisory committee. President Parton has served as the Oklahoma City Representative for the Indian Health Service National Budget Formulation Committee since 2017. President Parton previously served as an At-Large Representative for the HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) and was reappointed in 2023 as an At-Large Representative, Representative for the Indian Health Service Oklahoma City Area and former Chairman of the Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee (DSTAC) and the Tribal Public Health Advisory Committee for the State of Oklahoma.

President Parton is the first Elected Woman President for the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes. President Parton was elected as the President for the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes in July 2012 serving four years, re-elected in July 2016 and July 2020 for another four-year term.

### **Lyle Roggow, Duncan Area Economic Development Foundation**

Lyle Roggow grew up on a farm near Garber, Oklahoma. He was active in FFA with numerous local, state and national awards. Lyle graduated from OSU with a degree in Agriculture Economics in 1984 and is a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. Following college, he participated in the FFA WEA Program traveling to West Germany to work on farming operation. After returning from his six month work/study program, he began his professional career in Shawnee, at Gordon Cooper Technology Center in 1985 as the Farm Business Management Program Coordinator. He spent 13 years assisting farmers in achieving their goals and educating them on best businesses practices. While in Shawnee, he served on the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce, Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Commission, Seminole State University Regent, Tecumseh Chamber of Commerce and many more activities. In 1998, he returned to the family farming operation. Served as a member of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority from 1998 until 2012 and was the chairman of the board. In 2000, he became a Regional Director for the Oklahoma Department of Commerce serving the Northwest region and the North Central region. January of 2005, he began working for Meridian Technology Center in Stillwater as the Community and Economic Development Specialist and Assistant Incubator Manager.

In October 2006, Lyle became President of the Duncan Area Economic Development Foundation. He is the past chairman of the Governors Economic Development Marketing Team, past Chairman of Oklahoma Professional Economic Development Council, member of Select Oklahoma, member/chairman of the Incentive Evaluation Commission, member of the Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board, member of IAMC and IEDC. Lyle is a Board member of Duncan Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, 2014 fundraising Chairman to United Way of Stephens County, Leadership Oklahoma Class 30 graduate LOK Board of Directors and Stephens County Fairboard Member. Lyle is married, he and Kim, have four children and four grandchildren. Kim is a small business owner.

### **Josh Snow, President, Trace Fiber Networks, Chickasaw Nation**

Josh Snow is the President of Trace Fiber Networks. Previously Josh served as Senior Manager of Chickasaw Nation Telecom and Director of Sales and Marketing for Chickasaw Telephone Company. Josh is a graduate of East Central University and received a Bachelor's Degree in Business, Management, Marketing and Related Support Services..

## **Lawrence SpottedBird, Kiowa Tribal Chairman**

Lawrence SpottedBird was born in Lawton, Oklahoma at the Lawton Indian Hospital and grew up in Hobart where he graduated from high school. He was a state champion wrestler at Hobart his senior year and went on to attend the University of Oklahoma where he studied Architecture and participated in collegiate wrestling. He got married early and decided to leave OU and join the Navy during the Viet Nam War. After an Honorable Discharge from the Navy, Lawrence attended and ultimately graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with a degree in Business Administration.

Lawrence has then worked for more than forty years with American Indians and Alaska Natives to promote economic development in remote communities in Oklahoma, Nebraska, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, California, Minnesota and Iowa. He brings his professional experience to help serve the Kiowa people and plans to help build the economy of Southwest Oklahoma communities. He brought a three-part Strategic Plan for the Kiowa Tribe when he took office on July 15, 2022. This plan consists of strengthening the Kiowa Tribe as a self-governance tribe; creating Kiowa, Inc. as the economic development arm of the Kiowa Tribe; and creating the Kiowa Tribal Empowerment Center as a one-stop comprehensive service center supporting tribal citizens for career and business development while stressing healthy, drug-free lifestyles.

Lawrence is a proud Veteran of the U.S. Navy during the VietNam Era and a member of the Kiowa Ton Kon Gah and Ohomah Lodge, and next year, will be a member of the Kiowa Gourd Clan. He is also a member of the Meskwaki Nation American Legion Post in Iowa, Sitka Veterans Association in Alaska and a lifetime member of the Yakama Warriors Association in Washington State.

## **Michael Spurgeon, City Manager, Broken Arrow**

Michael Spurgeon has been Broken Arrow's City Manager for over 7 years and has nearly 35 years of experience in the field of local government management. He serves as the City's chief executive officer and is responsible for executing the day-to-day operations of the city and implementing the priorities of the City Council.

Spurgeon holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Rutgers University and Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Edison State College.

Several of Michael's top priorities include advocating transparency, citizens involvement in the local government process, community health and wellness, and public-private partnerships. He also places a strong emphasis on improving communications, maintaining a safe city, economic development administration, and better long-range planning.

Michael is the winner of the 2020 Gerald Wilkins Award, formerly known as the Oklahoma City Manager of the Year. Michael is also a past winner of Oklahoma's prestigious Don Rider award for Oklahoma's Outstanding Municipal Official of the Year and has been recognized as the State's Emergency Management Public Official of the Year.

Prior to working in the field of municipal government, Spurgeon served in the U.S. Army. While working in public administration Spurgeon was also a citizen-soldier, serving in the Army National Guard. Spurgeon graduated from the Army's Officer Candidate School (OCS) where he was selected as the Class Distinguished Honor Graduate and earned the rank of U.S. Army Commissioned Officer.



## **David Tillotson, City Manager, Glenpool**

David Tillotson has worked to serve the people of Oklahoma for almost 30 years. His government service career began at Tulsa County and progressed through various departments and positions until his transition to city government as the Assistant City Manger for the City of Glenpool. David left Glenpool to be the City Manager for the City of Catoosa before ultimately being asked to return to Glenpool as their City Manager. His time in Catoosa and Glenpool has afforded him the opportunity to work closely with both the Cherokee Nation and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

David has a Bachelor's degree in International Business from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and a Master's of Business Administration from Southern Nazarene University. He currently serves as the Vice-President of the City Manager's Association of Oklahoma, as the Secretary/Treasurer of Oklahoma Municipal Management Services, and is a credentialed manager through the International City/County Management Association. David also currently serves as the Minister of Music for First Baptist Church of Glenpool and has been serving in church staff positions since 2002.

Although he loves the local government profession and positively affecting the lives and business within his community in tangible ways, David believes his greatest accomplishment is his thirty year marriage to his wife Amy and raising their two children. He now enjoys playing with his five grandchildren every chance he has and eagerly awaits the arrival of his sixth grandchild later this year.

## **Bailey Walker, Chickasaw Nation Citizen, Director of Tribal Relations for Tribal Diagnostics LLC**

Bailey Walker, Chickasaw Nation Citizen, Director of Tribal Relations for Tribal Diagnostics LLC, a full complex native-owned laboratory built to enhance health outcomes by providing physicians and patients with tailored information to prevent and treat disease in our native communities. He earned an Entrepreneurship Degree from East Central University in 2012 and has served as the Preferred Vendor Program Coordinator for the Chickasaw Nation, advocating on behalf of vendors and companies aspiring to do business with the Chickasaw Nation & other tribal nations.

Bailey is also President/CEO of Four Winds Strategy Group LLC, a consulting group built to provide lead generation through a vast network nationally and internationally for Indigenous businesses. Recently, returning from the First Inaugural International Trade Mission to Australia to promote Indigenous trade & commerce and signing MOU's with Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network, Supply Nation, Native American Business Association, and Alaska Native Village Corporation.

Mr. Walker is the State President for the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma, first serving as an Advisory Board Member, Board Member, Vice President, President-Elect, and has been re-elected to a 6th term for 2023 as State President. He also served on the Governor's Minority Business Council of Oklahoma, promoting legislative and advocacy for First Americans and minority-owned companies. Bailey is committed to strengthening the ties between native business owners and tribal nations, corporations and the government. Bailey is committed to developing collaborative opportunities and joint ventures that will develop successful economic development models for Indigenous communities and entrepreneurs.

## **Governor Reggie Wassana, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes**

Governor Reggie Wassana is the son of the late Rose and late Truman Wassana. He grew up in the Deer Creek Indian Community north of Weatherford, Ok. After graduating from Weatherford High School in 1986 Governor Wassana attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University then later transferred to University of Oklahoma to only return back to SWOSU to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

In 1992, Governor Wassana began working for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes as a Planner then worked for the Business Managers Office. In 1996 He was hired as the Executive Director of Housing where he severed in that position till 2011. He later was a casino manager and Executive Director for Caddo and Comanche Housing Authority.

Governor Wassana served as a board member for the Tribal Farm and Ranch Board, Economic Development Board, and Southwest Oklahoma Development Authority Youth Council. He is a Certified Professional Parliamentarian of the Consortium of Native American Parliamentarians and the winner of the Virginia Kiser award for the Native American Indian Housing Council.

Governor Wassana was elected Legislator for Cheyenne District 3 in 2016 and served as Speaker of the Legislature for 2 years then he ran for governor and was elected as the 4th Governor of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes for a 4-year term.

## **Lori Gooday Ware, Chairwoman, Fort Sill Apache Tribe**

Lori Gooday Ware is a descendant of Chief Mangus Coloradas and Chief Loco of the Mimbreno and Warm Springs Apache Tribes.

Parents are Lupe and Ramona Gooday, Sr.

Positions held within the Fort Sill Apache Tribe

Fort Sill Apache Business Committee:

- Chairwoman since November 20, 2018 to Present.
- Vice-Chairwoman from October 2005 to November 20, 2018.
- Secretary-Treasurer of the Business Committee for a total of thirteen (13) years between 1989 and 2002.

Fort Sill Apache Economic Development Authority

- Vice-Chairwoman from November 20, 2018 to December 31, 2022.
- Presently serving as Ex Officio

Fort Sill Apache Housing Authority

- Chairwoman from 2020-Present
- Housing Commissioner from 1997-2003.

Southwest Inter-Tribal Health Board

- Chairwoman May 2022 to present.
- Board Member and Vice-Chairwoman from 2014 to May 2022

Started working for the Tribe in 1988 as the Secretary/Bookkeeper for the Youth Shelter then change jobs several times until 1992 and became the Administration on Aging Director until 2000

Fort Sill Apache Casino also known as the Apache Casino Hotel - Human Resources Manager from 2000-2007.

Fort Sill Apache Cultural Coordinator from October 2014 until going part time on November 20, 2018 through December 31, 2019.

Gold River Casino Human Resources Manager in Anadarko, Oklahoma from 2007 to 2011.

I attended the University of Oklahoma for one year and then I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a minor in Indian Studies from the University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma.

I've been blessed to still have my mother, Ramona. I have one handsome son, Wilson Ware, Jr. who has blessed me with a beautiful granddaughter, Gwentyth Angelina Marie and my daughter in law Carmen Marie Hernandez Ware. One sister, Charlotte Gooday, who has a son, Ryan and four beautiful grand-daughters; Mariah, Shyan, Zoey and Kehlan Rain. My father, Lupe Sr and brother, Lupe Jr. left our family in 2014 to be our heavenly angels.

Activities include: Spending time with family and friends, working on Cultural regalia and creating jewelry, watching OU football and On Patrol Live and meeting interesting people along the way being Chairwoman of the Fort Sill Apache Tribe.

### **Micah White, Chief Executive Officer - Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Utility Authority**

Micah White is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and is currently serving as the Chief Executive Officer of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Utility Authority. In this capacity, he is responsible for development and operations of utilities projects and infrastructure for the Nation and tribal entities. Prior to the Tribal Utility Authority, he served as the Manager of Planning and Grants for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Mr. White holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and Marketing from Oklahoma State University, a Bachelor's of Electrical Engineering Technology in Power Systems from Excelsior University, and an Associates of Tribal Services from the College of the Muscogee Nation. In his current role, Micah works to support and enhance the utilities infrastructure and services throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation reservation placing a strong emphasis on equity, affordability, and resilience.

### **Mark E. Woommavovah, Chairman of the Comanche Nation**

Mark E. Woommavovah, Chairman of the Comanche Nation, is a retired Lieutenant Colonel US Army and a member of the Comanche Indian Veterans Associations (CIVA). He received a scholarship to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College. After earning an associate's degree there, he joined the Army and soon started at the University of Oklahoma on an ROTC scholarship. He left with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a commission as a military police officer. He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and a graduate of the University of Oklahoma ROTC Commissioning Class of '92.

He had found his career, spending 31 years in the Army, one of only 12 Comanche Indians to earn the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Mr. Woommavovah is married to his wife, Amber, and they have three sons, Marcus, Michael, and Dylan.

Currently the Chairman of the Comanche Nation. He was a former Leadership and Talent Scout, Senior Military Instructor of Military Science at the University of Oklahoma ROTC, Coach for the University of Oklahoma Army ROTC 10 Mile Team and Sooner Battalion Running and Triathlon Club, Volunteer Youth Track and Cross Country coach for Cleveland County Family YMCA, Member of the OK Runner Team, Mentor and Advisor for the student athletes at the University of Oklahoma, Personal Trainer and Life Coach, Member of The Greater Lawton Rotary Club, Member of Lawton Ft. Still Chamber of Commerce, Kiowa Comanche Apache Indian Land Use Committee Board, United Way Board of Directors, Public and Motivational Speaker, Member of the Boomer Toastmaster Club, and children's book author, "The Little Indian Runner."