



OICWA Names Statewide Award in Honor of Sac and Fox Richard Poweshiek

By Sandra Massey NAGPRA



Richard Poweshiek

The Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association (OICWA) honored Sac and Fox Richard Poweshiek by naming its first statewide award for excellence after him.

Tribal leader Stella Nullake spoke on behalf of the family and tribe during the presentation of the Richard Poweshiek Award held during the opening ceremonies of the 7th annual OICWA conference on November 4-5, 2014 in Tulsa.

Richard Poweshiek worked for the Sac and Fox Nation as an Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Advocate for a number of years and "was very passionate about his job," said Tracy Haney, ICW Director for the Seminole Nation. "He was very encouraging to new ICW workers."

Haney, the former director of the Sac and Fox Nation Juve-

nile Detention Center, served on the awards committee and said the idea of an award came up a couple of years ago through discussion of the intertribal panel.

"Richard seemed the most logical choice (for whom to name the award) because of his work and dedication," said Haney. "He just did it without expecting anything for it."

Besides working in the field, Poweshiek served as an officer in OICWA, keeping up with the membership and keeping the books. He was an integral part of the growth of the organization, Haney commented, and after his retirement he stayed involved, providing advice and being available when needed.

The Indian Child Welfare Act is a federal law that was enacted in November 1978 with the purpose "to establish standards for the placement of Indian children in foster and adoptive homes and to prevent the breakup of Indian families".

ICWA allows tribal governments exclusive jurisdiction over native children whose homes are on tribal land or if the child is a ward of the tribe. Prior to the passing of ICWA, native children were removed at a high rate from their homes and placed in non-native homes, which also removed them from their culture. One of the several major requirements of ICWA is

that Indian children are to be placed in homes that reflect Indian culture.

Congress found and stated within the law that "there is no resource that is more vital to the continued existence and integrity of Indian tribes than their children."

The qualifications of the Richard Poweshiek Award embody the commitment to the ideals of ICWA that Poweshiek possessed. "We were looking for someone who showed commitment not only in his or her professional life but in the personal one, too," Haney said. "Somebody who worked hard, whose work other people noticed but who didn't expect any awards for it."

The 2014 inaugural presentation went to Laurie Clark, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation ICW worker, for exemplary service. She had been a foster parent who took in the hard to place teens with behavioral problems and even adopted some of them. She went to college so she could do more in the field.

Richard Poweshiek worked for the Sac and Fox Nation and lived in the Shawnee area most of his life but was enrolled in the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa. He was born on November 28, 1925 in Des Moines, Iowa and died at age 82 in Shawnee on September 13,

2008. His parents were Jonas and Ruth (Moore) Poweshiek, and he had been married to Leatrice Rhodes Poweshiek.

Richard Poweshiek served in the Navy during World War II and received an honorable dis-

charge. He held an associate's degree from Haskell Junior College and a bachelor's of science from the University of Oklahoma and worked as an AA counselor, a social worker, and an Indian Child Welfare Advocate.

Harjo Awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom

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Suzan Shown Harjo

President of the United States Barack Obama presented activist Suzan Shown Harjo of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, in recognition of all her work on behalf of native people's issues.

The awards ceremony took place on Monday, November 24, 2014. Harjo was one of 18 to receive the honor for contributions in the arts, politics, or sports. Other honorees were Ethel Kennedy, actresses Meryl Streep and Marlo Thomas, singer Stevie Wonder, journalist Tom Brokaw, author Isabel Allende, economist Robert Solow,

former Rep. Abner Mikva of Illinois, physicist Mildred Dresselhaus and golfer Charlie Sifford. Composer Stephen Sondheim was unable to attend and will receive his award with next year's honorees.

Receiving the award posthumously were civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, who died in 1964 while trying to register blacks to vote in Mississippi, choreographer Alvin Ailey, and Reps. Patsy Mink of Hawaii and Edward Roybal of California, founder of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Harjo's works include the creation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), a major factor in the Jim Thorpe lawsuit. She brought forth a resolution in support of the Sac and Fox Nation and the Thorpe family at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in the 2014 annual conference, and she co-authored a play about the Thorpe litigation with attorney Mary Kathryn Nagle. She was one of the plaintiffs in the trademark case against a professional football team.

Four Directions Reentry Grant Program Deployed at SFN Juvenile Detention Center

The Sac and Fox Detention Facility has deployed the Four Directions Reentry Grant Program with two full time staff members. The program will bring resources and cultural events to the kids currently residing and released from the detention facility, under a federal grant from the US Department of Justice.

On November 10, 2014 the detention center hosted a Cultural Event in honor of Native American Month. An employee of the Potawatomi Nation joined Sam Sprang and Robert Williamson to present a circle talking session and songs, in the

afternoon hours at the detention facility.

Sam sung many traditional songs, including the Sac and Fox Flag Song, some Veterans songs and brave dance songs. Sam played a drum passed down to him from his great-grandfather and included talks of his ancestors and family traditions. Robert also included some motivational words for the children as did Burt Patadal from Potawatomi Nation.

The presenters joined the program staff for a traditional meal of corn soup, squash and corn, and meat gravy, prepared (Continued on Page 3)



Cultural Event JDC: (From Left) Burt Patadal, Potawatomi Nation; Sam Sprang, FDPIR Director and Robert Williamson, USDA

Upcoming Events

December 6

Sac and Fox Elders Winter Dance Community Center

December 9

Sac and Fox Nation Veterans Meeting Cultural Center

December 10

Sac and Fox Elders Monthly Meeting (Election of Officers) Shawnee

December 17

Sac and Fox Library Winter Open House

December 18

Sac and Fox Nation Womens Auxillary

December 20

Sac and Fox Nation Annual Christmas Party 6:30 - 9:00 pm

January 1, 2015

New Years Dance 2:00 pm Gourd Dance Supper Break 5:00 pm 7:00 pm Sauk Traditional Intertribel Dance

Chief's Address To The Nation

Merry Christmas! Tis the Season to celebrate the Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Congratulations to all of our athletes and band members that competed during the Fall season(s) and Good Luck and Prayers to our Winter season participants. Remember that God has given you talent so use it to His glory and give Him the praise. So many of your peers are not able to compete due to physical/mental restraints, so whenever you play, play for them too. Amen. This month my article will cover local news regarding the Black Hawk Health Center (BHHC), our new Health Clinic/Center, Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA) Pilot Project, Black Hawk Casino, and Rodeo Committee.

Black Hawk Health Center

Our Health Director, Don Whitehead met recently with the Business Committee to listen to an IHS update by telecon-

ference with IHS Acting Director Dr. Yvette Roubideaux. His update of the BHHC after the call can be described as, "It's an exciting time for our clinic!" The architectural firm, Childers Architect of Ft. Smith, Ark., has been selected to develop a floor plan, rendering, and cost estimate for our proposed new 40,000 sq. ft. health clinic. This firm has worked with many Oklahoma Indian Nations/Tribes in developing their new facilities.

He shared with us the news that additions have been made to the staff. I welcome our new Dietitian, Elizabeth Burgess and Physician, Dr. Gary Kindell, M.D. to the Black Hawk Health Center. Plans are to add 1-2 Physician Assistants to staff as well. Plans to actively reach out to our tribal membership and other patients to enroll in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicaid and Medicare will be conducted in community (Continued on Page 3)

From the Office of Secretary

Hello to each Tribal Member this day, 11-21-14. You need to know of the "happenings" of the Governing Council's approved action on 10-25-14, that the annual per/capita payment be paid out beginning November 1, 2014. It took me a few minutes to realize that the date was actually the next Saturday!!! I thought, "there is no way that

a per/capita payment could be made by November 1," UNLESS

(1) Each member had mailed in their W-9, (2) each member corrected their mailing address, (3) each member had reported any changes to their name, and (4) any legal documents that need to be filed with (Continued on Page 3)