



Delaware Tribe of Indians

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Chief Jerry Douglas Honored by AARP at OKC Ceremony; One of 50 Indian Elders Recognized

(SPECIAL) – Delaware Chief Jerry Douglas was honored at AARP Oklahoma’s first Indian Elder Honors November 17th in Oklahoma City .

Douglas was among 50 American Indian Elder Honorees recognized from more than 30 tribes at the event which featured the Oklahoma Fancy Dancers and was attended by several hundred people.

Chief Douglas was recognized for his many years of service to the tribe and community and his leadership that resulted in the restoration of the tribe’s federal recognition. He has been a tribal representative on the Grand Gateway Board and is currently serving on the Education Committee, Economic Development Committee, and on the Claremore Indian Hospital Board.

Among the honorees were authors, poets, educators, chiefs and governors, elders who have kept their cultures alive by saving traditional dance and language, those who have fought for federal recognition of their tribes and nations and veterans -- including the last surviving Native American from the Bataan Death March.

AARP National President-Elect Lee Hammond was on hand to deliver the keynote address and help present medallions along with AARP Oklahoma Volunteer State President Marjorie Lyons and State Director Nancy Coffey.

Hammond praised the honorees and noted AARP’s commitment to reach diverse populations. He also reminded the audience of AARP Founder Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus’ motto, “to serve and not be served.”

“It was a beautiful night to salute these American Indian Elders,” said Lyons . “AARP Oklahoma has pledged to continue working with Oklahoma Indians to understand their unique needs and find ways that the association can help them age with dignity.”

To read the full list of honorees, visit: www.aarp.org/ok