



Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma

RESOLUTION #21-37
MAY 25, 2021

PROCLAMATION

- Whereas,** The Pawnee Business Council is the supreme governing body of the Pawnee Nation and is authorized to conduct business on behalf of the Pawnee Nation in accordance with Article IV, Sections 1 and 2 of the Pawnee Nation Constitution and By-Laws; and
- Whereas,** the Pawnee Business Council met in special session on May 25, 2021, at the Pawnee Nation Building 64 Conference Room, duly authorized, with a quorum present; and
- Whereas,** the Pawnee Nation is one of the Great Plains Indian Tribes, with an aboriginal homeland that spans the Central Plains of North America. It has dwelled in the greatest grassland on Earth since time immemorial; and we still reside on the prairie today, despite seeing hard times and many changes over the past few hundred years; and
- Whereas,** the Pawnee language (Pari Pakuru') is of supreme importance to the Pawnee Nation. The Native tongue of our forebearers is our legacy, handed down from times immemorial. For millennia, our language has served as a pillar of our identity; the wellspring for our culture, cosmology, ceremonies; the glue that binds our people into one Nation; and a cornerstone of our cultural sovereignty. Without language, no Tribal Nation can endure as a culturally distinct Indigenous People; and
- Whereas,** after learning about the passing of Dr. Douglas R. Parks on May 20, 2021, the Pawnee Business Council wishes to issue a Proclamation on behalf of a grateful Pawnee Nation to declare the Nation's deep appreciation for his life-long work as an anthropologist and linguist who dedicated his career to the Pawnee language; and
- Whereas,** over the span of six decades, Dr. Parks worked tirelessly to: (1) learn, document, record, and translate the Pawnee language in collaboration with fluent speakers who shared their knowledge with him; (2) he compiled a one-in-the-nation database on the Pawnee Language derived from fluent Pawnee language speakers; (3) he developed education material and tools to teach and learn the endangered Pawnee language; (4) he obtained, researched, analyzed, translated, and edited rare anthropological writings pertaining to the ceremonies, cosmology, and traditional religious beliefs derived from Pawnee elders and religious leaders; and (5) he collaborated with, assisted, and rendered advice to Tribal members, Tribal programs, and Tribal educators to develop and implement language programs for the Pawnee people; and
- Whereas,** over the course of his life, Dr. Parks put all the ingredients in place to enable the Nation to preserve the endangered Pawnee language for future generations. For that great body of scholastic achievement, the entire Pawnee Nation owes him a big debt of gratitude; and
- Whereas,** the Nation is deeply saddened by the passing of our long-time friend; and
- Whereas,** on this sad occasion, the Pawnee Nation wishes to extend and express its deep appreciation to the American Indian Studies Research Institute at Indiana University for its long-time support for the work of Dr. Parks and for the Institute's collaboration with the Pawnee Nation. Over the decades, the Nation has enjoyed its relationship with AISRI and its wonderful staff. The Pawnee people appreciate all of the kindness and assistance rendered to them by the Institute over the years. With the passing of Dr. Parks, the Nation recognizes that all things come to pass and change over time. We send our condolences to the Institute on the passing of Dr. Parks, along

with our well-wishes and hope to renew, restore, and strengthen our relationship with the new leadership of the Institute in the years ahead; and

Whereas, today the Pawnee Nation faces the grave challenge of saving the endangered Pawnee language, which is a top priority for the Tribal government. Due in great measure to Dr. Parks' work and the assistance of the AISRI, we are optimistic and determined that our language will endure. The Nation established a Language Department housed in the Cultural Resources Division of the government and two Pawnee Tribal members that are professional linguists serve as educators for the Pawnee Language Program. Though more resources are needed to enhance and better deploy the Pawnee Language Program, the Nation is working to bring the Program to the next level. We wish to acknowledge the invaluable role played by Dr. Parks and AISRI in the Nation's effort to save its endangered language for future generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Pawnee Nation proclaims Dr. Douglas R. Parks as a "Friend and Cultural Champion of the Pawnee Nation" for his life-long career documenting the Pawnee language; for his collaboration and unflagging support for teaching Pawnee language to Pawnee people; and for sharing knowledge gleaned from Pawnee elders and speakers with their descendants. These things he did so that in God's great plan, Pawnee language and culture might persevere.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in tribute to Dr. Parks the Pawnee Business Council hereby directs that the Pawnee Nation flag be lowered for one day to honor him, commemorate his life, and acknowledge his great service to the Nation.

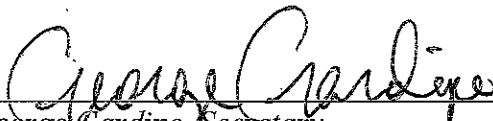
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Pawnee Nation sends condolences to the staff and leaders of the American Indian Studies Research Institute (AISRI) and Indiana University. On this sad occasion, we encourage the Institute to "stay the course" forged by Dr. Parks. To honor his memory, let us resolve to strengthen our relationship so his great body of work shall not be in vain. And in the fullness of time, let us fulfill his mission to preserve the endangered Pawnee language and successfully restore that Indigenous language to the people from whence it came.

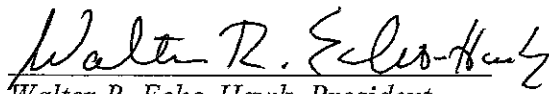
CERTIFICATION

I, George Gardipe, Secretary of the Pawnee Business Council, certify that a Special Meeting of the Pawnee Business Council was held on the 25th day of May 2021 and that the Pawnee Business Council is composed of eight members, one vacant seat of whom 8 were present, 0 absent, comprising a quorum, and the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by a vote of 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining, and 2 not voting.

Signed this 25th day of May 2021

ATTEST:


George Gardipe, Secretary
Pawnee Nation Business Council


Walter R. Echo-Hawk, President
Pawnee Nation Business Council