

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Craig E. Davis
Associate State Director
405-715-4473
cedavis@aarps.org

***AARP Oklahoma Honors Chairman
Munroe, Mary Butler at Indian Elders
Honors; Announces Inter-Tribal
Community Group***

Oklahoma City, Okla. – Kaw Chairman Guy Munroe and Tribal Citizen Mary Butler were among more than 45 Indian elders recognized at the 4th Annual AARP Indian Elder Honors held recently in Oklahoma City.

Tribal officials, friends and family members converged on the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum along with AARP state, regional and national officials to recognize language preservationists, artists, dancers, ministers, authors, patriarchs and matriarchs that have impacted their tribes, communities and state.

AARP also announced the formation of an Inter-Tribal Community Group that will meet on community issues and is open to all 50+ Native Americans in Oklahoma. To find more information or join this group, e-mail ok@aarps.org or call 1-866-295-7277.

Among honorees recognized at the event was one of the few remaining Oklahoma Indians who speak only her native language, a world-champion fancy dancer and a noted artist who is 100 years old.

AARP National Board Member Joan Ruff, who delivered the keynote address, said, “We hope the partnerships we’ve established here will be the foundation to create partnerships between AARP and other Native American nations in other states.

But tonight our focus isn’t on AARP. It’s on you, the elders, and the contributions you’ve made to improve the lives of people around you – in your own tribes, the greater tribal community, in the state of Oklahoma, our nation, and even around the world.

Your lives are rich, living stories being passed on to the next generations.”

Ruff, along with AARP Oklahoma State President Marjorie Lyons, Regional Vice President Nancy Stockbridge and Associate State Director Mashell Sourjohn presented each honoree with a medallion.

“Once again, we have come together in the spirit of goodwill and harmony to celebrate the remarkable lives of Native American elders from across the state,” Lyons said. “Though they come from different backgrounds and cultures, we see in tonight’s honorees, the common bond they share – respect, dignity and service to their fellow man.”

AARP has a dedicated website featuring resources and information for Oklahoma Indian Elders which can be accessed at: www.aarps.org/okindiannavigator.org



-AARP Oklahoma Associate State Director Mashell Sourjohn, National Board Member Joan Ruff, Kaw Chairman Guy Munroe, center, with his medallion, Regional Vice President Nancy Stockbridge and Oklahoma State President Marjorie Lyons .
(Mary Butler was unable to attend this event)