



Welcome!

Welcome to the 1st edition of the Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux's Digital Newsletter

Meet The Council



Chief - Rodger Collum

When asked, "Why after all these years have you decided to go public with your tribe?" Chief Rodger Collum replied,

"My ancestors raised me for such a time as this. It is time to reveal the secrets and tell the story of my people."

Chief Rodger Lee Collum is the 6th Chief of Bayou Bourbeaux. Born on

March 3, 1953, he was chosen by his grandfather, Chief Clarence

Desadier, to be his successor. At the age of five until the age of sixteen,

Rodger was required to attend all the meetings of the elders. He was

to sit at their feet and pay close attention to their stories. At the

time, he did not understand the importance of the responsibility of

what was being handed down to him. As he became a man, the

family leadership just fell on him naturally. His father once told him,

"Son, there's only two kinds of people in this world, a leader or a

follower. You're a leader."

Chief Collum is married to Charlia Presley Collum. He has three

children and one stepson:

Shannon, Amber, Hannah and John Paul. His parents were Alford

"Duck" and Ola Mae Desadier Collum. By trade, Collum is a

well-known building contractor in Natchitoches Parish. He has lived

his entire life on Bayou Bourbeaux, the land of his forefathers. He is a

life-long member of Christian Harmony Baptist Church which was

built on land donated by Chief Adolph Felix Desadier and Chief

Clarence Desadier.

Vice Chief - Belinda Brooks

Vice-Chief Belinda Brooks is the daughter of Happy and Hazel

Trichell Brooks and the mother of two children, Tim and Jamee Stam-

pley. A perilous accident on March 24, 1967 took the life of her father

and only sibling, Ray "Bo" Brooks. Belinda aka "BB" makes her home

in Oak Grove, Louisiana, where she lives with her mother, Hazel Beden-

bender. She is a retired Louisiana educator who now works as a

Learning Strategies Instructor at Academic of Innovation in Vicks-

burg, Mississippi.

Brooks' interest in family genealogy was fired by her mother. She

took up the pastime as a means of spending more quality time with

her mother. In the end, she got hooked on her families' ancestry

and has spent 20+ years researching family history. History of her

Bayou Bourbeaux family consumes her. When asked, "Why do you

spend so much time and effort working for your tribe?" Belinda's

answer was, "I believe that God has a purpose for my life that is bigger

than I can imagine. I know that I am where He wants me to be. Time

is short and we need to work while there is light."

Pictures from March 14th Meeting



March 14th Butte Tribe Meeting Minutes

Saturday, March 14th, Butte Tribe members met for their Spring 2020 seasonal meeting with approximately 100 members attending. The meeting was held at the Pace Recreation Center in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Special guest was Eric Kirkendall, Shreveport Ambassador of Ansley's Angels of North West Louisiana.

Members gathered for their quarterly business meeting. Chief Rodger Collum reported on the Butte Tribe Cultural Center Project that is now in process. Land survey and tribe pledges were discussed. He discussed his recent meeting with the Natchitoches Police Jury and the requirements that are needed to put tribe plans into action. Treasurer Brad Desadier gave the financial report. Vice-Chief Belinda Brooks spoke to the tribe about the current series of articles on the Butte Chiefs of Bayou Bourbeaux that is being published in the Natchitoches Times newspaper. Members were encouraged to take time to read the articles to learn more about the history of their tribe.

New membership cards and feathers were handed out to the members who were present. Approximately 100 new members were added to the tribal rolls.

Presentation of feathers is a ceremonial event of the Butte Tribe. Traditionally, both men and women wear feathers within the Butte Tribe. Feathers must be earned and the decision of who receives feathers is made by the chief.

Raven Trichell, Butte member, displayed her history presentation that will be entered in 2020 Louisiana State History Fair competition in May. The Butte Tribe presentation won the Overall Championship Honors at the regional competition in Monroe, Louisiana.

Meshal Kavalir Free, Butte member, invited special guest, Eric Kirkendall, Shreveport Ambassador of Ansley's Angels of North West Louisiana. Free is an avid supporter and volunteer of Ansley's Angels. Her son, Will, loves to ride with his mother guiding the wheels. Free and Kirkendall expressed their feelings of joy when at the end of marathons their riders receive medals just like those who could actually run the race. Kirkendall spoke to the tribe about his non-profit organization, Ansley's Angels. Rides were provided for those at the meeting who wanted to experience the fun of being pushed at a running pace down the highway. Ansley's Angels provides exciting bike riding experiences for disabled children of all ages. Specially designed four-wheel push-bikes that enable the riders to sit safely and comfortably are pushed by volunteer runners to enable the riders to enjoy the thrill of road gliding and to feel the breeze of air brushing by their bodies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poverty Point World Festival in Oak Grove has been canceled until next year.

Thank you to Jimmie Faye Hudson & Merrisa Banes for sending out cards for elder birthdays, sympathy, and thank you notes.

Be sure to check out the series of Chief Articles located at buttribe.org as these articles are important to learn about the history of our tribe.

Chief Collum has asked that every member pledge financial support to the tribe each month. No amount is too great or small. Contact Chief Collum at 318-481-7313 to make your donation. You can also donate via Paypal at Paypal.me/ButteTribe

IN LOVING MEMORY OF: TERRY A. DESADIER

