



For Immediate Release

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POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS NAME AND REDEDICATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HOMELESS SHELTER

POARCH CREEK INDIAN RESERVATION, Alabama – October 15, 2007 – The Poarch Band of Creek Indians held a ceremony last Tuesday, October 9, 2007, to name and rededicate its domestic violence and homeless shelter. The rededication was in memory of Tribal Member and longtime Tribal employee Linda Gail Rolin Parker. Mrs. Parker was instrumental in the development and implementation of the Tribe's domestic violence assistance/prevention program. The shelter, which is equipped with a large family area, a child's play area, full sized bathroom, kitchen, and three bedrooms, will be used to house victims in need of assistance due to domestic violence. It will also serve as temporary shelter for the homeless.

Mrs. Parker's husband, children, and grandchildren were joined by many other family members and friends for the ceremony. In his welcome, Buford L. Rolin, Tribal Chairman, who is also Linda Gail's brother, spoke of her dedication to the Tribe, of the continuing work of the Family Services Department and the Domestic Violence Task Force. He also spoke of how honored her family is that the shelter was being rededicated in her memory. Gloria Grant, former Victims Advocacy Specialist with the Tribe, who worked with Linda Gail was unable to attend the rededication, however she sent a personal recorded message to share with everyone. Below is an excerpt of the message from Mrs. Grant:

"Linda Gail Rolin Parker was about her God, her family, and finding a way to help the less fortunate, doing her job well, and having a pleasurable time while doing it. My life has never been the same since knowing Linda Gail, as everyone so affectionately called her. Because of what Linda stood for, and how she handled it, made me desire to add some of those same values to my life, like a fingerprint. If you meet Linda for any amount of time, you are wearing a portion of her fingerprint in your life. If Linda were here today she would tell you how much it means to her to have a beautiful shelter for the local people in the community to stay in if the brutal hand of violence visits their family. Her desire would be for God to bless and keep everyone in the community, especially those victims of violent crimes."

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Earlier this year the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Domestic Violence Task Force also took on the task of naming the shelter. As part of this project, Tribal Members were asked to submit possible names for the shelter. The task force reviewed the many names submitted and selected, “Creek Save Haven”. This name was submitted by Tribal Member Connie Vickery. The Creek translation of the name is “*Cuko Ucayece*” and means “House of Protection”.

The Family Services Department and the Poarch Creek Indians Domestic Violence Task Force were instrumental in the redidcation and naming process. Carolyn White, Family Services Executive Director, and Wanda Fowler, Victims Advocacy Coordinator, each spoke about the program, and how influential Linda Gail Rolin Parker was in the community and throughout Indian Country. The ceremony ended with a domestic violence vigil in which those in attendance released balloons in honor/memory of those individuals living in a domestic violence situation and/or those who have died as a result of domestic violence. ,

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