



POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former Chief Houston McGhee Passes Away

POARCH CREEK INDIAN RESERVATION, AL – February 1, 2012 - Houston McGhee, former Chief of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, passed away January 31, 2012, at home surrounded by his family. Mr. McGhee was a lifetime resident of Poarch, AL.

In 1970 Houston McGhee was named Chief after the passing of his father Chief Calvin McGhee. He served the Tribe in this position until he resigned in 1977. After his resignation, McGhee continued to work on behalf of the Poarch Creeks supporting their efforts to become federally recognized. After the Poarch Creeks were granted federal recognition in 1984, McGhee came back to work as an employee for Poarch Creek Indian Tribal Government in 1988 and worked there until his retirement in 2004. After his retirement McGhee remained an active member of the community, always ready to help his fellow Tribal Members.

Robert McGhee, Governmental Relations Advisor and Tribal Council Treasurer said, “It is with the combined efforts of the leadership who came before us that we are now known as the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, a strong and well respected Indian Nation. He will always be remembered as a man and leader that loved his family, friends, this community and Tribe, and has always been proud of the success we experience today and to call himself Poarch Creek.”

In 2011, former Chief Houston McGhee gave his oral history to the Poarch Creek Archives. Here is an excerpt from McGhee’s oral history:

“Chief Calvin McGhee-I am his son and I wanted to follow him. I wanted to help the people to get something—to build something. We didn’t have anything here. I wanted a museum with books in it. The people would like to see that. That’s what I wanted.”

His wife Margie McGhee said, “He was for the people” speaking of his service as Chief.

Chief Houston McGhee’s oral history is on file for anyone who would like to learn more about his time as Chief and the legacy he leaves the Tribe.

Services will be Saturday, February 4 at 2 p.m. from Atmore Memorial Chapel. Interment will follow in New Home Cemetery at Poarch. Family will receive friends Friday evening, February 3, at Atmore Memorial Chapel from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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