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**NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES
TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS**
New Members' Expertise Will Enhance and Strengthen Board

OKLAHOMA CITY, August 5, 2026 — The National Native American Hall of Fame announced the appointment of two new members to its board of directors: Tim Harjo, Chiricahua/Warm Springs Apache/Comanche/Seminole, and James Pepper Henry, Kaw Nation. The new board members will support the work of the National Native American Hall of Fame to bring greater awareness to the significant contributions of contemporary Native people and will assist with fundraising efforts to add an exhibit hall to the Sun Dial Mansion, which now serves as its headquarters.

Tim Harjo, Chiricahua/Warm Springs Apache and Comanche/Seminole — Over the past 25 years, Mr. Harjo has built a distinguished career in the public and private sectors. He currently serves as Secretary of Commerce for the Muscogee Creek Nation. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Harjo served as Of Counsel for Ceiba Legal, P.C., which specializes in serving tribal governments and national Native-led nonprofits across the country. He also served on the Kiowa Tribe's Commerce Commission and previously served as Chairman of Prairie Band LLC, a tribally owned economic development company of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. He taught for several years as an Adjunct Professor in the Marketing Department of the College of Business and Economics at California State University, Northridge.

Mr. Harjo has served on various government and nonprofit boards, commissions, and working groups addressing American Indian and Alaska Native economic development, education, and healthcare issues, including the National Race and Ethnic Advisory Committee for the U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, from 2012 to 2016.

Mr. Harjo earned a B.S. degree in management from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado; a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from Arizona State University; a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University; and a master's degree in business administration from California State University, Northridge. He is a member of the Oklahoma Bar. He owns and operates Sovereign Ranch Ltd., where he raises a small bison herd.

James Pepper Henry, Kaw Nation — Pepper Henry is the Tribal Chairman-elect of the Kaw Nation of Oklahoma and Principal of Pepper & Associates, a Native American-owned and operated museum planning firm that assists in the design and development of cultural institutions and interpretive centers representing Indigenous and underserved communities, as well as in the development of operating plans, exhibition and interpretive plans, and design and build-out.

Pepper Henry is the former Cultural Resources Director for the Kaw Nation, a federally recognized Native American tribe headquartered in Kaw City, Oklahoma. He recently completed a four-year term as Vice-Chairman of the Kaw Nation. He also serves as President of the Kanza Heritage Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of Kaw culture, language, and historic sites.

Pepper Henry is the former Director of the First Americans Museum (FAM), Oklahoma's premier cultural institution, located in Oklahoma City. Its mission is to educate the broader public about the unique cultures, diversity, history, and contributions of the 39 federally recognized tribes that were removed to Indian Territory, now the state of Oklahoma.

Prior to his tenure at the First Americans Museum, Pepper Henry was Executive Director of Tulsa's premier art, history, and culture museum, the Gilcrease Museum. He co-led a successful \$65 million campaign to update and expand the facility. Pepper Henry also served as a commissioner on the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission and was a key proponent and facilitator in establishing "Native American Day" as an official City of Tulsa day of recognition.

Prior to Gilcrease Museum, Pepper Henry served as Director and CEO of the Heard Museum in Phoenix, AZ; Director and CEO of the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center in Anchorage, AK; and Associate Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. He played a pivotal role in the establishment and launch of the Anchorage Museum's expanded facility, which opened to the public in 2004.

Pepper Henry is a graduate of the University of Oregon and a recipient of the university's prestigious Council for Minority Education Leadership Award. He is also a graduate of the Museum Leadership Institute at the Getty Center in Los Angeles, California.

About the National Native American Hall of Fame

For more information about the National Native American Hall of Fame and our upcoming Induction Ceremony Gala in November, please visit nativehalloffame.org or contact James Parker Shield at james@nativehalloffame.org.

Headquartered in Oklahoma City, the National Native American Hall of Fame is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the inspirational achievements of Native Americans in contemporary history. The organization serves as a premier resource for identifying and honoring today's trailblazers, emerging heroes, and significant contributors to American society.

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