



# Modoc Nation

## Candidate Election Guide

Annual Meeting  
August 6, 2022 9:00 am  
At the Modoc Gathering Building

74950 Buffalo Trail  
Wyandotte, OK 74370

# Candidate for Chief



**Robert Burkybile III**

Email: [rburkybile@gmail.com](mailto:rburkybile@gmail.com)

Ph. 918-325-3185

My name is Rob Burkybile and I am running for Chief of the Modoc Nation. As a tribal member and employee, I am very invested in the operations of the Nation and the services that we provide to members. I live in Miami, OK, and have many ties to the community. I think I would make an excellent candidate because I have a full understanding of the day-to-day business operations of the Nation. I have been involved in multiple entities of the Nation for the past 8 years. Including serving as the executive director for Modoc Tribe Financial Services Authority, a Stables Casino board member, director of Modoc Housing, IHS water grant administrator, a liaison with California government entities and local businesses, and serving as second chief since being appointed in October 2021, among other duties. I also explore new grants and business opportunities for the Nation. I try to use cautious judgement when making big decisions that affect us and try to see the issue from all points of view. As your Chief, I will strive to be an upright and just steward of the Nation.

Decisions need to be made that benefit all, not just for us now, but for multiple generations to come.

There are many hopes that I have for our future. I would like to see continued services like education, home improvement, burial, and others for tribal members. I would like to add to our current list of social services by seeking out new programs and funding from multiple agencies. Also, I would like to expand our clean energy capabilities for our tribal offices and homes in Oklahoma and our California properties. Not only would that be great for the environment, but it would also be a step closer to energy independence and with the amount of grants and support available, it makes financial sense.

Another hope is to continue our progress of language revitalization and cultural meetings. I think it's beneficial for all tribal members, especially children, to understand where they are from and how that has shaped them today.

Lastly, I would like us to get more involved in inter-tribal and community-related projects to benefit more in the area. With the number of resources that each group can bring together, I think there is a great opportunity for something big to happen and benefit a larger group of people. Supporting each other and the community is important to me because I am a believer in helping the greater good.

With your vote, I will make myself available to listen to members thoughts, suggestions, criticism, or ideas to help keep our tribe moving in the right direction.



**Syd Colombe**

Email: [sydcolombe@hotmail.com](mailto:sydcolombe@hotmail.com)

Ph. 605-208-1745

# Candidate for Chief

My name is Syd Colombe, descendant of Shacknasty Jim. I currently reside in Northeast Oklahoma in the little town of Fairland. I am the daughter of Viola James Colombe (Modoc) and the late Charlie Colombe (Rosebud Sioux). I have two amazing children, Shane (23) and Joely (12).

It would be my honor to serve as Chief of the Modoc Nation and I am humbly asking for your vote. I am honest, hardworking, and I have more than 30 years of experience working with tribes at every level. I understand tribes: politics, Constitutions, Ordinances, Policies and Sovereignty. The Constitution of the Modoc Nation is what establishes

what we can do when we can do it and how we do it. Within this Constitution there are Ordinances that further define actions. It is

imperative that we, the Modoc citizens, elect individuals that understand these documents and will uphold them. I am that type of individual.

A tribal Nation is Sovereign, and we need a leader with knowledge and experience of how business works within it. I am local to this area, and I know the politics and the dynamics. I am familiar with the structure of our local community, the other leaders within it, and the issues relative to our community. In addition, I have worked on a regional and national level.

I have the future of our children's children in my vision. I bring the whole package to the table, if I was elected Chief. I have spent a lifetime gaining this knowledge and living it. It is important what we do now, but the future is what we leave to our children. Our ancestors, who rode in cattle cars to Kansas endured so we would have a future. We must vote for the future. We must vote for the best candidate – the one with the knowledge, passion, love and understanding of being Modoc. I am your candidate. I am a candidate for the people, and I have lived through the history of this great nation. I understand our hardships, and I am here to work for our future.

My future vision for the Modoc Nation includes a government that has accountability, transparency, and a door open for the citizens. This vision includes maximizing federal government funding to develop programs while, at the same time, optimizing enterprises and their funds to build a better tomorrow for our citizens of today and the citizens to come. The Modoc Nation of tomorrow, that I will lead, will be stronger, transparent, and more unified. This Modoc Nation will be for the people and with the people.

In closing, we need leadership that is experienced and knowledgeable about all things "tribal." If I am elected, I will bring change: transparency and accountability. I will work tirelessly with and for our Modoc people. I am, and will remain, transparent at all times. A vote for Syd Colombe will bring change and my door will always be open.



## **Kirk Miller**

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Ph. 918-917-3123

# **Candidate for Chief**

## **Biography**

- Married w. four children, two grandchildren
  - Combat Veteran, Served in the US Marine Corps 1990-2006. Medically Discharged w. Honors
  - Served as Combat Leader in Iraq, 2003. Combat Martial Arts Instructor, Weapons Systems Instructor. Numerous Awards and Medals for Achievements. Developed and Implemented Training Procedures for the US Marine Corps, 2BN 25<sup>th</sup> Marines, Garden City, NY.
  - Twenty-five years experience in the Oil and Gas Industry, duties include Multi-Million dollar project management positions across the US and Poland, assisting with Multi-Million Dollar Accounting Audits.
  - Manager/Partner in a Multi-Million Dollar Oil Field Service Company assisted in developing standard operating procedures for transparent operations.
- Assist and launch a Human Resources, Accounting (Q.B.), Safety, DOT Departments.
  - Develop business protocols for the Bureau of Land Management Operations.
  - Four years of Law Enforcement Experience, 1.5 years experience working directly with the US Marshals of the Eastern District of Oklahoma.
  - Proudly achieved various leadership certifications while serving in the US Marine Corps and British Petroleum.
- ## **Modoc Future**
- Unify our Tribe, Unify Neighboring Tribal Families, and Continue to Unify our Tribal Families in California and Oregon.
  - Embrace and Enhance Our Lost Culture to Modern Learnings. Search and Rescue all Modoc Artifacts to assist in cultural learning.
  - Develop Programs, which will ensure Elders and special needs children have the best care, are priorities. (i.e., Dental Care, Hearing Care, Vision Care, Nutritionist, individualized nutrition care, if necessary)
  - Form a committee to help plan the journey of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Modoc War. (Elders having priority)
  - Ensure the educations fund is stable and has continued growth for four generations.
  - Develop Technical Apprentice Programs for Modoc Members, if so desired.
  - Continue to build Economic Development Programs with Ethical, Transparent Business Practices. Search and increase our 8a and Super 8 Programs and other business investments, w. proper business modeling.
  - Following proper protocols, implement semi-annual and formal annual meetings.
  - Ensure General P&L Statements are updated quarterly on the Modoc Nation Web Site.
  - Ensure all programs; that the Modoc Nation Members are entitled to are listed on the Modoc Nation Web Site.
  - Develop a help center that will assist Modoc Members in a time of need; follow-up protocols will be implemented and reported directly to the Chief or 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief weekly.
  - Enhance our Modoc Clothing Store with attire that Modoc Members will wear with Pride.

# Candidate for Second Chief



**John Boggs**

Ph. 918-855-3684

I was born in McAlester, Oklahoma in 1961. I am the youngest of 12 children. My mother Ruby (Miller) Boggs is the daughter of Louie Miller, my grandpa, who was the son of Charlie Miller, my great-grandpa. My mother always said that were Indians, and a short time ago we discovered that we were Modocs. Being able to identify my bloodline was a great blessing for me, I am proud to be a Modoc. A lady once said to me, "You haven't been a Modoc very long." I smiled and said, "I've been a Modoc all my life." We laughed, and she said, "That is true!"

My wife and I have been married for 37 years, we have two daughters and four grandchildren. For the past 40 years I have owned and operated a successful construction and masonry business. Having been a business owner, over the years I have had the opportunity to employ many people which has afforded me the opportunity to develop specific leadership skills in human

relations, time and money management, as well as a deep appreciation for each individual's contributions and importance to a team's success. I believe the true measure of success is being able to give your customers the product they envisioned. I believe my company's reputation and the quality of work delivered to my many employers attests to my ability to listen, to serve, and to respect those entrusting me with the opportunity to work for them. I hope you will give me the opportunity to work for and to serve the people of the Modoc Nation. This is why I am running for the position of Second Chief for the Modoc Nation. I believe I have a lot to offer to our tribe. My goal is to bring unity, hope, trust and prosperity along with a sense of togetherness in our tribe. Just as I have had a large family growing up, now I have even a larger family in the Modoc Nation. I believe in unity, equality, and fairness and that we all should have a voice. I would like to represent the voice of the Modoc people, and I will answer to the people of the Modoc Nation. Above all else, I answer to God Almighty, my Lord and Savior. I ask blessings on the Modoc Nation; that is my real hope.

# Candidate for Second Chief



**Ben Karnes**

Email:  
ben.karnes@modocnation.one  
Ph. 918-325-8488

Wak' lisi Maklaks, my name is Ben Karnes and I am running for the position of 2nd Chief. Some of you may know me from my time working for the Modoc Nation as Network Admin/Webmaster where I met many of you while trying to get refurbished computers to members in need; others from efforts in repatriating Adam McCarty's remains from the Carlisle Indian School and getting him laid to rest on Modoc soil or from cemetery clean up days. For those of you I haven't had the honor of meeting or who would like to know more about me, I am a Christian and a father of two. I was born in Claremore, OK, and aside from time away for military duties, I have been a lifelong resident of the Picher/Quapaw/Miami area. I graduated from Quapaw High School, received my Associate's Degree (Psychology & Sociology) from NEO A&M, and graduated as Distinguished Honor Graduate from the Army Signal School (25B Information Systems Tech) in Fort Gordon, GA. During my time as a soldier, I served as an Information Systems NCO and a Unit Administrative

Tech. The diversity of my technical training and higher education has allowed me to develop a unique set of problem solving skills that I believe closely match those of our common ancestors. Good leadership has to have a heart for the people first and actions must have greater benefits to the majority, not to the individual. If you bless me with the honor of being elected as your 2nd Chief, that principle will always be first and foremost in my decision making process. We are all equals in the Modoc Nation; no single individual or family is greater than another. We are all descended from ancestors who shared the exact same hardships and atrocities. My heart yearns for realization of this equality looking toward the future. We have got to be a sharing family of equals who judge our personal success by making sure that our neighbors are successful. No Modoc should go without while another has an abundance. These are my philosophies that I will follow as your 2nd Chief. I encourage an open door policy as well as complete transparency in Modoc Nation matters, whether cultural, day to day, or even financial. As an equal in the Modoc Nation, we each deserve to know everything that is happening with our Nation. On the topic of culture, I would love nothing more than to reach out to our brethren in the Klamath areas and establish the first of many Modoc pow wows. I would also like to, with the help of the Chief, establish a naming ceremony. These are two things that have long been on my heart. It would be an honor to meet and speak at length with any of you prior to the election if you have any questions for me. Please feel free to reach out to me by visiting [www.modocnation.one](http://www.modocnation.one) or emailing me directly at [ben.karnes@modocnation.one](mailto:ben.karnes@modocnation.one). God Bless.

# Candidate for Second Chief

Greetings to all members of the Modoc Nation. My name is Gina Louise McGaughey. I am presenting myself as a candidate for the Second Chief position in the 2022 election of the Modoc Nation Elected Council.

I am a descendant of Vernon "Dutch" Walker. Dutch is my grandfather. Our Modoc War ancestor is Long Jim.

My formal education includes an Associate of Science degree in Nursing from Missouri Southern State College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

I have developed a vast background of work experience in the healthcare and tribal business industries. Since 2012, I have been involved with the tribe in the following capacities:

- October 2021 to present – President/General Manager of Walga MTE, a construction company owned by the Modoc Nation.
- March 2019 to October 2021 – President/Tribal Member Representative, Eagle TG and Red Cedar TG, information technology companies owned by the Modoc Nation.
- September 2012 to March 2019 – President/Tribal Member Representative, Buffalo MTE, a construction company owned by the Modoc Nation.
- June 2020 to present – serving on the Modoc Nation Leadership Committee.

Skills and responsibilities for the above positions include the following:

- Develop and facilitate business plans.
- Supervision of staff and front-line managers.
- Budget and fiscal responsibility.
- Develop and facilitate productive relationships with Federal Agencies to include, but not limited to: Small Business Administration; Department of Defense; Forestry Service, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- Overseeing the day-to-day operational management at a National Level. Contributing to the development and implementation of organizational strategies, policies, and practices. Reviewing and improving the operational systems, processes, and policies in support of organization's mission; specifically, support better information flow and management, business process and organizational planning.

The future of the Modoc Nation is dependent on its members and their leadership. I believe we are genuinely innovative, perseverant, and good people. My hope is to focus on those attributes to bring us together. We have a past rich in wisdom, I hope we gather more to share it. We have a future that is full of opportunities, and I hope to see us work together to develop them. I believe our common values include continuing to support education, elder care, and cultural enrichment. I am committed to working with the members of the Modoc Nation and their elected council to do everything in our power to protect our past and secure our future.



**Gina McGaughey**

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Ph. 417-291-0245



# **Candidate for Secretary/ Treasurer**

My name is Ramona Rosiere, daughter of Dutch Walker second Chairman of the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma. It has been my honor to serve the Modoc Tribe as Secretary/Treasurer for some forty years. My hope is that the Modoc Tribe will always strive to respect the Modoc name and to continue to maintain and improve the programs that have been developed for our members in all areas of education, housing and health.

**Ramona Rosiere**

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Ph. 417-456-0533



# Candidate for Council Member



## **Danny Burkybile**

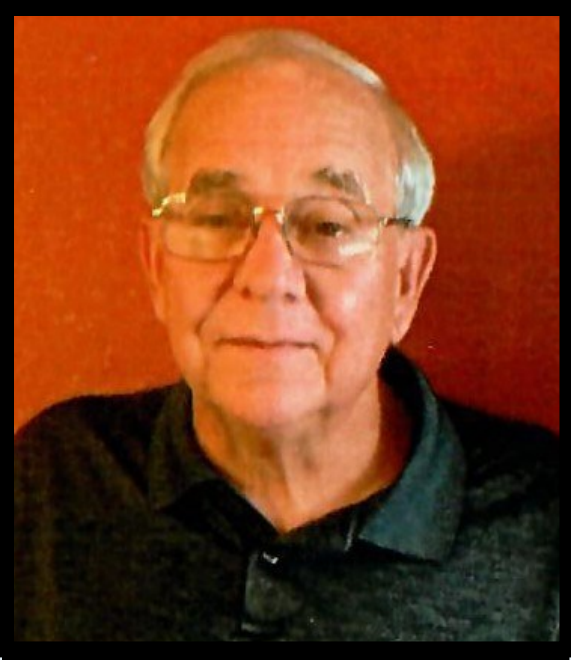
Email: [danielburkybile@hotmail.com](mailto:danielburkybile@hotmail.com)

Ph. 918-533-5041

My name is Daniel Burkybile, I have always gone by Danny. I am 51 years old and believe that I would be an asset to the Modoc Nation by serving on the Elected Council. I have always been a self-starter and driven to succeed. I was taught at a young age that whatever the job is to do it with pride. I have worked in retail sales; the customer is always right. I have worked in chemical manufacturing. I have run my own successful businesses. I have been a government contractor in human resources, maintenance and inspection of defense department communications equipment, and sales and contracting. This background equips me to work with people and I have knowledge of how to procure government contracts for economic growth of Tribal assets. But the part of my life that I am most proud of is that I am a trained disaster relief and fire department chaplain. I am also

chairman of deacons of my local church. These are positions of leadership that require integrity and a servant's heart. I want to serve you on the Elected Council. I want to be your voice. My door will always be open to hear your views. We are ONE people, equal no matter of how long you have had a roll number. We were all born Modoc and this is something we should be proud of. If elected, I will do my best to bring pride to the people I serve. I will serve all members equally. We need to find ways to take care of our elders while protecting the future of our young. We can only do this through new business development and not relying on federal government grants. As we grow in numbers we grow in strength. This is proven by the addition of our newest members over the last few years. To have such a large number come in at once with their work history and background can only make us a more complete Nation.

# Candidate for Council Member



**Edd Miller**

Email: [eddcmliller@gmail.com](mailto:eddcmliller@gmail.com)

Ph. 918-704-4111

My name is Edd Miller. I am a descendant of Charley Miller. He was my great grandfather. I am running for Council Member for the Tribe in this year's election. I was born in Wilburton Oklahoma on June 8, 1951. After high school I graduated with a degree in air conditioning. I am married to my wife for 51 years and have two daughters and three grand-daughters. I worked for the General Services Administration for the Federal Government for 25 years. I have been retired for 16 years. During my career, I managed a lot of different people and oversaw all of the projects. I am also a man of God. I was raised as a Christian and followed God all of my life. I serve as a Deacon and I have a strong desire to help people. I am fair and able to consider the needs of all people. The years working for the GSA dealing with Federal judges, Senators, Congressmen and federal agencies and my faith in Jesus Christ would make me a good candidate for Council Member in the great Modoc Nation. Three years ago, I had never heard of the Modoc people. When we received the news about

being a descendant of Charley Miller, this added a new dimension to my life. I began to study and research our family history and I feel a deep gratitude and belonging to this Tribe. I am thankful our ancestors survived the trip to Oklahoma and the tribe can live on through the great men and women like Charley Miller. My hope for the future for the Modoc Nation is to see even more programs to provide fair and honest care for all Tribe Members. I care about our elders and I want to make sure they receive care to live out their lives with comfort and dignity. I also think it is important to educate our youth on our past heritage and keep our legacy alive by continuing to keep everyone united. Having events where everyone can gather and get to know each other will build relationships. We also must hold each other accountable for the finances, time, and resources of the Modoc Nation. If I am elected Council Member, I will strive to do what is best for everyone. I will also listen to the people's opinion on tribal issues and represent the majority. I hope to see new investments the Tribe could be a part of. I believe if we put God first in what we do the sky is the limit. I want it to continue to be a Nation we are all proud to be a member of. I am excited to be a part of the progress. Please vote for me Edd Miller for Tribal Council Member.



## **Jessica Mullin**

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Ph. 918-418-9756

# **Candidate for Council Member**

Waklisi Modokni Maklaks! My name is Jessica Mullin and I am running for the Modoc Nation elected Council Member position. I am a descendant of Modoc Warrior and bow maker, Sam Ball. My mother, Susan Burkybile, enrolled me as a Modoc citizen over 20 years ago. The rediscovery of my Modoc heritage and connection to our Tribe and members has forever changed and challenged me, professionally and personally.

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and hold a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Denver where I focused on addressing trauma. After graduation I returned to Miami, OK and began working for Modoc Nation in 2017 as the Tribal Registrar and Director of Culture and Education. In the 2 years I was in this position, I engaged with Modoc members and heard their desire to feel culturally connected. To bring opportunities for our mem-

bers to connect with each other and their culture, I initiated several cultural programs, including the Family Gathering, Modoc Youth Camp, Culture Club, language classes, and the Modoc Newsletter.

Historic and Cultural Preservation is a primary initiative that I will continue to support and seek opportunities to move forward with, including the development of a museum, culture/language classes, and aid to help members visit our ancestral territory. For our culture to survive and thrive, it will be critical for our youngest members to grow up with a connection to their Modoc heritage.

In my current role as Director of Behavioral Health, I have started the Modoc's youth and adult outpatient mental health treatment programs. Through this process over 40 employment opportunities have been created. These programs serve 300+ individuals and their families each year, in addition to generating income to be sustainable for years to come. I have also written, co-written and implemented 17 federal grant projects to meet the needs of our community and demand for providing these services at little to no cost to our patients.

Tribal member and community social, emotional, and physical wellness will continue to be an initiative that I want to expand in order to promote overall healing and wellness for our people, especially enhancing our tribal benefits and service availability for individuals who are special needs, disabled, elder, and those residing outside of the Oklahoma service area.

My hope for the Modoc Nation is to bring unity to our people across the nation, to preserve and instill our culture, to have transparency between leadership and members, to employ tribal members, to operate reputable and sustainable businesses, and to ensure all decisions are rooted in Modoc Values: Culture, Integrity, Respect, Hard Work, and Family.

As your Council Member, I promise to hear your feedback, suggestions, concerns and represent what is in the best interest of our members and future generations. It would be a great honor and privilege to represent you on the Modoc Elected Council. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or comments you may have. Sep kecca!



# Candidate for Council Member

**John Newberry**

Ph. 918-964-5831

I am a fair and honest person and am proud to be a Modoc and would like to serve as a Council Member for Modoc Nation. I know there are a lot of Modocs that are as proud as I am, but no one is prouder than I am. I want our people to be as a family, to bond and get together, know each other individually and grow even more than we have in the past. We have grown more than I expected over the years. I didn't think we would grow as much as we have in my lifetime and I know we will keep growing more in the future. I studied with my Uncle Calvin Walker, husband of Wilma (Grant) Walker. They studied for over 30 years in California and Oregon and I learned a big part of the "old" Modoc Language, that was still left, which even less is known now. I have a burning passion to learn all that I can. Our language is very important and I think we should know the old way the language was spoken and the new,

which seems to be more of a blend of Klamath/Modoc. I care very much for people. I am a very compassionate person and empathize with people in this world. I get along with people and am willing to learn from anyone I can. I give myself time to think things over. I am the great-great grandson of US Grant, POW who fought in the Modoc War along with my great-great grandmother named Modoc Woman. She passed on prior to the removal to Oklahoma.

I hope to see the growth of the tribe exceed many times more than it already has. I have a strong feeling that it will because we have good and intelligent people that can make that happen.

# Candidate for Council Member



**Jay Shadwick**

Email: [shad040@gmail.com](mailto:shad040@gmail.com)

Ph. 541-517-9582

As a proud member of the Modoc Nation I am asking for your trust in allowing me to serve on the Modoc Elected Council.

After graduation from the University of Oregon, I began my career working in the Juvenile Department with high risk offenders. After several years of working in these special programs, I decided to chase my childhood dream of becoming a police officer. I was hired by the Eugene Police Department where I served as an officer and then a sergeant, retiring after serving for over 33 years. During that time I sat on numerous committees, task forces, and special teams. In those assignments I learned to work with a diverse collection of people with different opinions or goals and I learned how to work through issues in order to come to a positive resolution. I made decisions that affected the lives and safety of countless civilians and employees.

I am married to a wonderful woman who works for the City of Eugene in the Parks and Open Spaces Department. I have two adult children that I raised on my own, and two young step children. As a parent, I am very aware of the needs of Modoc families, and grateful for the numerous resources the Tribe has assisted my family with. Subsequently I am even more driven to do what I can to “give back” to the Modoc Nation, in appreciation for all that I have been blessed with.

As a member of the Council I know I could help further serve our members and their families, always being conscientious of the impact of the Council’s decisions on its members.

I am extremely proud of the advances and accomplishments the Modoc Nation has made. My vision for the Tribe is to strengthen and grow its business opportunities. I hope we can continue to bring in additional, and expanding revenue, in order to continue to improve services and benefits for tribal members.

My goals would be to:

- Continue to expand and keep membership up

- Ensure equal benefits for all members

- Create and maintain job opportunities

- Establish an emergency assistance fund

- Build on relationships with Oregon Modocs

- Maintain and improve cultural heritage, to include language, Myths and Legends, and Traditional medicine

Living in Oregon allows me to be a resource for all members, both in Oklahoma and Oregon. I feel that living outside of the Miami area helps me to understand the needs of tribal members who may not have immediate access to staff and the facilities in the Miami area. Additionally, with today’s technology, I am easily able to virtually attend meetings and maintain contact with other Council members.

# Candidate for Judge



## Jason Clark

Email: [jclarkmodoc12@gmail.com](mailto:jclarkmodoc12@gmail.com)

Ph. 417-768-9312

I'm Jason Clark and 48 years ago I was born a Modoc. As a member I would wholly support all members needs as a liaison to our Elected Council for the position of Judge. I will be readily available to all members and promise to listen to their issues with an open mind.

My goal is to help members communicate their wants, concerns, and needs and make sure the constitution is followed. I am passionate about our culture and our people. I am here to stand with you as a proud and courageous Modoc citizen.

The variety of skills I have accumulated in different positions will serve me in this position.

- Served in US Coast Guard-discipline and ranking systems, left on honorable discharge
- Former Deputy Sheriff-learned how to remain calm, stern but kind, and fearless in difficult situations, all while dealing with all

types of personalities

- Barber-learned how to respectfully communicate with people of different cultures provide a service that they were pleased with
- Commercial Diver-learned to work under very stressful situations; became very detail oriented from the use of powerful tools to life saving equipment; supervision of dive crew
- Modoc Bison Range-learned the cultural connection between bison, the land, and Indians, as well as the characteristics of the animals to be able to care for them

