

## History of Tribal Council Oath of Office

In the 1980's, our Elders met regularly. They worked to stay united with each other while handling the concerns of their tribal people. With little money, they came together not for themselves, but to make a better life for their people.

It was at these meetings that the idea was put forward to create an Oath of Office for the Tribal Council. After comparing several oaths', the Elders created our tribe's oath. I remember going to Theresa Nason's house because she couldn't come to all the meetings. Theresa made sure the Oath was written right. After several drafts were re-written we final had a People's Oath. This would be used for all new elected tribal council members.

At the first People's Oath in the 1980's, our Elders chose Frank Parker to perform the Oath, Frank ask that I stand beside him.

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005, the Tribal Council reinstated the People's Oath when Jim Peter's was re-elected and ask, "Where's Rhonda?", the Oath had been dropped for two years. From then on, it was the responsibility of CRD to ensure that the Oath is not forgotten or disrespected.

*Rhonda Whitener Foster*

### **To the Families**

***Your loved one is taking on a large responsibility. To be selfless and thinking about others before themselves is not an easy job. Their ears will be twisted and bent many, many, days. Most will lose sleep because they are a council member. It's your responsibility to support and lift them up when they continue to work hard for our people. Please be understanding.***