



SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

2018 INAUGURATION



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community newly elected Tribal Council and Chief Judge, (L-R) President Martin Harvier, Vice-President Ricardo Leonard, Council members Thomas Largo, Sr., Diane Enos, Cheryl Doka, Michael Dallas, Sr. and Chief Judge Ryan Andrews.



Traditional singers lead the way for the opening ceremonies.



Salt River American Legion Post 114 posted the colors.



Angelica Gonzales sang the national anthem in O'odham.

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community 2018 Inauguration

BY DALTON WALKER
O'odham Action News
dalton.walker@srpmic-nsn.gov

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community celebrated its newly elected and re-elected leaders at the 2018 Inauguration ceremony held on December 15 at Talking Stick Resort.

President Martin Harvier; Vice-President Ricardo Leonard; Council members Diane Enos, Thomas Largo, Cheryl Doka and Michael Dallas; and Chief Judge Ryan Andrews all took their oaths of office in front of a packed Grand Ballroom.

The ceremony started with a procession led by Salt River singers, followed by Piipaash singers and singers from the Tohono O'odham Nation and Gila River Indian Community. The

four singing groups came from four different directions and met in the center of the ballroom. The new Council members and their immediate family members walked behind the Salt River singers. When the groups met in the center, the new Council members took to the stage.

Jacob Moore was the ceremony's emcee, Angelica Gonzales sang the national anthem in O'odham, and Miss Salt River Kailey Toney gave the welcome address. Community elder Barbara Johnson gave the invocation and Filmore Carlos, a former SRPMIC president, gave the benediction. Salt River American Legion Post 114 posted the colors.

Musical numbers were provided by the Salt River High School band. Guest speakers were outgoing SRPMIC President Delbert W. Ray Sr.

and Ivan Makil, former SRPMIC president and cofounder of Generation Seven Strategic Partners.

"It is my pleasure to welcome Community members, all distinguished tribal leaders, local leaders, friends, family and special guests," Toney said. "I'm very excited to be a part of this day, to start out this event, and to celebrate individuals who are ... a voice for our Community ... through leadership, humility and hard work. I would like to first recognize Creator for continuously blessing our Community and providing many opportunities for us to progress, as we are very fortunate to have the resources and opportunities [we have] as O'odham and Piipaash."

Continued on page 2

President Martin Harvier Address

After the officers were sworn in for their four-year terms, SRPMIC President Martin Harvier gave his first presidential address.

“Good afternoon everyone. First of all, I want to thank, ... all of the singers from our sister tribes, from here in the Community, our O’odham and Piipaash singers. Thank you for taking time out of your day to come and help us celebrate the way we entered the building today.

Harvier acknowledged Mrs. Ruth Cough for asking about the Salt River Band during the [election] campaign, and as of a result of the inquiry the Salt River High School band was asked to perform during the ceremony. Harvier spoke about his classmate Judge [Jay] Pedro from Gila River and how proud he was of his accomplishments.

Harvier recognized Fawny Grey for nominating him 12 years ago and having faith in him to run as vice-president.

“Which leads me here today. She saw something—like President Makil said, we have all been given a talent, and people have to tell us what they think before we realize what that talent is. Thank you, Fawny.

“I want to thank President Makil for

speaking. Twelve years ago, when they had the inauguration, President [Diane] Enos was being sworn in, and President Makil was the special guest speaker then also. Something that I remember he said is that those who are being sworn in were chosen long before to be leaders. I couldn’t help but think of the Scripture that says, ‘Many are called and few are chosen.’

“President Ray talked about my mom, and I know we all say we have the best mom, but I want to tell you that I have the best mom. Growing up, there were six of us, and I know my dad didn’t make much money having a tribal job back at Gila River. But we always had a meal to eat, we always had clean clothes, we always had a clean house. We could always feel the love from our mom...

“My mom, a week before Thanksgiving, had a hip replacement, and when she was in rehab last Saturday, we had to rush her to the hospital because she had lost a lot of blood. The doctor notified us siblings that she would not make it through the night [without] a blood transfusion, but that as the blood entered her stream her heart would have to work extra hard to pump that blood. They gave her five

or six pints of

blood, and after every pint you could see her color come back. And do you know the first thing she said? ‘Martin, when is your inauguration?’ I love you mom, I’m glad you’re here.

“The next person is my wife, Toni. I want to thank my wife for my children and the support you give me. Politicians get accused of not keeping the promises they make in running for office. I’ve never made a promise in running for office. The only thing I have ever said is that I would work the hardest I could in representing our Community. The only promise that I know I have made is to my wife: that I promise to love her, not only in this life, but hopefully for eternity if she’ll accept me on the other side. You truly are the wind beneath my wings. I love you, hon.

“I want you to know that I didn’t copy President Makil’s speech. As I was sitting here [listening to Makil’s speech], I was thinking this is going to sound pretty familiar. I woke up this morning and thought I better put something down.

“Last night, Tribal Council had their Christmas dinner here, and we had the opportunity to have that last dinner with President Ray. I want to take this little bit of time to thank President Ray. When you work with people, you do become like family, you get to know things about people. There’s been times this last

four years when it’s been really difficult, and it never failed that every time I relayed whatever what was happening to President Ray, he said, ‘Vice-President,

we need to pray.’ And we would pray. I know that President Ray loves this Community and I know he loves his family ... President Ray, thank you very much for representing our Community the last four years as our president.

“Having our dinner here last night, my wife and I decided to stay here [at the Talking Stick Resort] so we wouldn’t have to be rushing around for the event today. This morning, I woke up and opened up the (window) blinds, and right out the window I had a view of the golf course. ... The sun couldn’t break through the clouds this morning and you could see the beautiful sacred Red Mountain to the east. It was just beautiful to look out the window and see that. There was the desert that came up to the golf course, and the desert has its own beauty. You could see the desert all the way to the mountains, to the



President Martin Harvier stands with his wife Toni and Chief Judge Ryan Andrews.

mountains that are mentioned in our traditional songs. I could see the farmland to the east and I couldn’t help but think about our ancestors who dug hundreds, if not thousands, of miles of canal systems throughout this valley, using sticks and baskets to haul the material. Why did they work so hard in digging this canal system? Because

in now what is called Lehi for the protection of the settlers that came into that area. Our ancestors have been here from time immemorial, and leaders have had visions of what was needed to be accomplished to provide for our people. The day after Christmas I’m going to turn 59 years old. The reason I bring up my age is that in my lifetime I’ve seen tremendous changes within the boundaries of our Community, visions that prior leadership had of putting things in place to be used by us today, even those who weren’t born yet.

“Back in 1961, Coun-

cil member Claudina Wood made a plea to the Secretary of the Interior. I want to point out that Claudina Wood is my wife’s grandma. Merna Lewis, former vice-president, who came up on stage with Council member Dallas to hold the Bible—Claudina was her mom. I’m not sure if Norman Wood is here today, but she was also his mom. They are the two surviving children of Claudina Wood. I wanted to read this piece that was published by



Outgoing President Delbert Ray, Sr., gives incoming President Martin Harvier a hug.

they knew that water is life, for their crops and for survival of their people. We were the people for whom they worked so hard to get water to the different areas, our ancestors and those that we followed. As a people we lived off the land. History says that we helped people that came into our territory, we helped them as they traveled to their destinations. We were also known as protectors. It is recorded that the Maricopa were asked to live

the Arizona Republic. I believe it was in November of 1961. Claudina said to the Interior Secretary: Our children want the best education and have to sit next to neighbors’ kids in school. [Nobody knows what] they have to go through before the day was over because there wasn’t gas in the car to haul water that day and grandpa had to walk a couple miles to find horses to hitch up the old lopsided wagon so we could have some water. Already, the bus has come and gone with children on it. I wonder how it feels to sit down in a nice white

bathtub, turn on some nice warm water and stand in a shower with water trickling over your sweat and dirty smelly body. I’d probably feel like I was wasting water. Don’t get me wrong, we bathe, but do you know how? Most of us know it’s from the pump that pours warm water, and [we] take a chance that it’s running that day when we plan to take the family there, or there’s also the good ol’ sponge bath that leaves you half clean and mom’s good ol’ galvanized tub. Living in a one-room house, where can I bathe? One is lucky to talk to the principal the day of school to use the [school] showers for one more chance to take that bath, or to maybe use the showers at the church. One caution in every instant is to be careful or you’ll catch your death of cold on your way home, especially if you come a long way to bathe. Our house is in the building stage; we live on a dirt

floor and cook our beans outside. When will our domestic water come? I have a prayer deep down inside that if I must continue to live as now, I’ll try not to mind, but for their children and their children, please don’t

seen the visions of past leaders come forth. Is there still work to do? Yes, there is plenty of work to do, because if I [had awoken] this morning and looked out the window to the west side, I would have seen a dif-



President Martin Harvier gives his mother Sarah a heart felt hug after the swearing in ceremonies.

deprive them of their human right of decent living.

“[These were her] pleadings in 1961 to have infrastructure here in the Community. In my lifetime I’ve seen tremendous change; I’ve

ferent part of the Community, where the tribe and tribal members have been able to develop their property. Development supports the services we provide to our membership and others that come into our Com-

munity, services such as our first responders, our police, our fire, that are professionally trained to respond when incidents occur.

“We have overall developments that attract millions of people. I would like to thank those developers and organizations, ... the Diamondbacks, the Rockies, for choosing our Community to put [their] developments.

“I believe that we have tools here in the Community for issues that continue to plague our Community. I believe we have the people employed that truly care about what they do in helping us in areas that we need to focus on.

As elected officials, we need to keep going forward, we need to focus on those concerns and like what was said, let’s come to conclusions that are necessary to put an end to some of these things that are not [just] hurting but killing some of our members of our

Community. “And as the president, and I hope with the incoming vice-president, that we can sit with our Community Manager Mr. (Bryan) Meyers and our Assistant Community Managers (Carla) Banielos, (Lena) Jackson-Eckert and (Kent) Andrews to work with departments of the government to get things done, to get things accomplished. I’m looking forward to the next four years to see what will come forth.

“I want to ... have a meeting with the Council, and if there were promises made I want to sit down and talk about them. And if there are things that we can move forward on, we are going to move forward on them. We want to see an end to some of the things that are put on the table—not just talk about them, we want to accomplish them. Those are the things that I want to do at the beginning of our term here, to meet as leaders to find out what

we want our Community to be like. I also want, at some point early, to get another survey of the Community [members] to get their suggestions.

“I appreciate Council member Largo. He added four words to his oath of office: ‘So Help Me God.’ I believe as a Community in going forward, if we put God first in our lives we’ll continue to be a blessed Community. We have to remember that God is control of all things that happen and He is watching over us. We have a great Community, we have great members of our Community. We all have to work together, and if we work together we’ll continue to move forward.

“I feel honored to serve as your president and I want to say God bless you and God bless our Community. Thank you.”

Newly Elected Vice-President Ricardo Leonard Honored to Serve Community

BY TASHA SILVERHORN
O’odham Action News
tasha.silverhorn2@srpmic-nsn.gov

During the 2018 Inauguration ceremony, newly elected and sworn-in Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Vice-President Ricardo Leonard said it was a great honor to be up on the stage sitting next to SRPMIC President Martin Harvier, Council member Thomas Largo and the other Council members.

“I was honored. I have never been to what I call the ‘big show,’” said Leonard. “I always shy away from big crowds, so I had no idea what to expect, but it felt good to sit up there with the rest of the Council and I was deeply



Vice-President Ricardo Leonard.

honored.”

Leonard explained that vice-president is a totally different job than Council member, where he spent 18 years. Leonard faces new challenges as he takes on his new position and plans to try to do his best for the people and for his Community.

“Every time I wake up, I think to myself that the people of the Community are counting on me,” said Leonard. “They put their votes in at a time when people were almost passing out in the heat just to get there. I have a lot of respect for that, and I want to do the best that I can because people are depending on me.”

Leonard hopes to continue the work that former President Delbert W. Ray Sr. started, such as the proclamation of the Anti-Drug Awareness Campaign. He hopes to expand and strengthen the current programs that are utilized in the Community and perhaps create new programs to help fight those issues.

He also touched on other projects he would support, such as the development of books with the Cultural Resources Department that help educate Community youth



Vice-President Ricardo Leonard is sworn into office by former President Delbert Ray, along side his wife Annette.

about the value of money and the importance of working to earn it. Leonard is also looking forward to working with Community youth to discuss and find solutions to issues affecting them. Also, he hopes to further the culture and traditions of the Community.

Leonard extended special thanks to the late Billy Hayes, who was instrumental in opening his eyes to the world of tribal government.

“If it wasn’t for his involvement in starting the first Youth Council and introducing me

to the government and other youth councils,” he explained, “who knows where I would have ended up?”

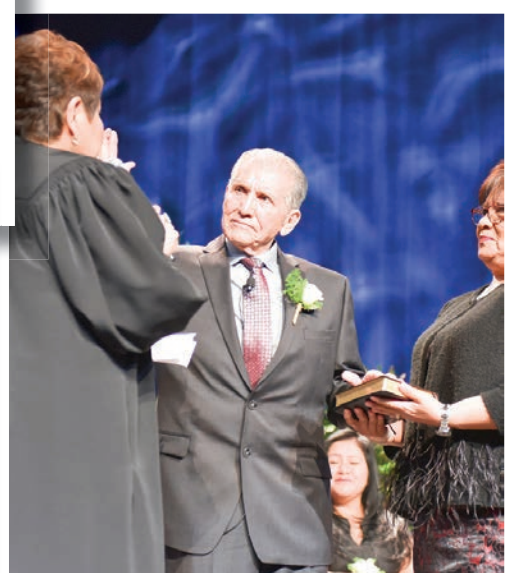
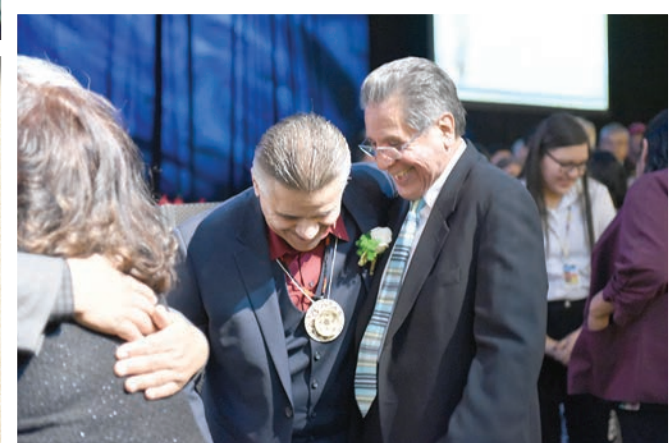
He also wanted to thank Barbara Johnson, who wrote him a letter when he first joined Council in 2000.

“The letter explained how to be a good Christian man, but it is the same as being a good O’odham man,” said Leonard. “I have to give credit to her because she has kept me going.”

He thanked Ivan Makil, Merna Lewis and Largo for

taking him under their wing and teaching him all about tribal government.

“I want people to understand that I am still walking that O’odham himdak and there are always things I can and want to do better for my people,” said Leonard. “A true leader is someone that works hard not just for certain people or groups, but for the betterment of everyone.”



Former SRPMIC President Ivan Makil Serves as Keynote Speaker for 2018 Inauguration

BY TASHA SILVERHORN
O'odham Action News
tasha.silverhorn2@srpmic-nsn.gov

leaders with vision. These men crossed party lines to accomplish great deeds, especially for Native communities," he said.

"The Creator gave every single person in this room a talent, skill and ability that is uniquely theirs. Our challenge is remembering and understanding how to use it. How to use it not for ourselves, but for our family, our Community, for our tribe," said Makil. "As chosen leaders, this is your challenge: to carry, to walk with that spirit and to share the knowledge and understand the value of unity. Recalling the qualities and characteristics of Senator McCain and Congressman Pastor made me think of the type of leadership that is needed today, not only here in Salt River, but nationally."

Makil explained that during his time serving the Community he experienced many challenges and learned from them. As he thought of what he could say for inspiration, two individuals came to his mind. "The late Arizona Senator John McCain and Representative Ed Pastor were



Past SRPMIC President Ivan Makil encouraged Council and challenged the Community to be there and support this administration.

administration," said Makil. "Not just in good times, and not to just come and beat them up at every Council meeting. If you're going to be there just to complain, also come with a solution to the problem."

He talked about the history of the Community and how our ancestors paved the way for the economic success the

Community enjoys today, from their development of the canal systems to taking advantage of new opportunities to develop the Community's enterprises, beginning with Salt River Sand and Rock.

"Our culture provided us with a strong, solid foundation, and our history tells us who we are, how we have

grown and how we will continue to evolve," said Makil in his closing. "The health of our people physically, socially, economically and spiritually will determine our future. Seek the balance."



SRPMIC President Delbert W. Ray Leaves Office in Good Hands

BY RICHIE CORRALES
O'odham Action News
richie.corrales@srpmic-nsn.gov

In his last speech as president of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Delbert W. Ray Sr. thanked everyone one last time at the

2018 SRPMIC Inauguration on December 15 at the Talking Stick Resort ballroom.

"We care about each other, and I believe that is the foundation of any government," Ray said. "It was December 20,

2014, when I came up here to give an address to the Community, to offer words of hope and to inspire the Community into a new direction, and it takes all of us."

He said that a lot has been accomplished in the past four years. "There is still unfinished business, but I know I'm going to leave this office in good hands," he said.

"This past four years Vice-President Harvier and I worked very well together with the support of this Council. I think they were the hardest-working Council because we agreed to disagree on a couple of things, but it sharpens us to go forth and do things that are necessary for the Community."

"I am excited for this new Council because I know they are going to step up and do what is necessary for the Community," Ray continued. "I just want to thank the Community. Everyone

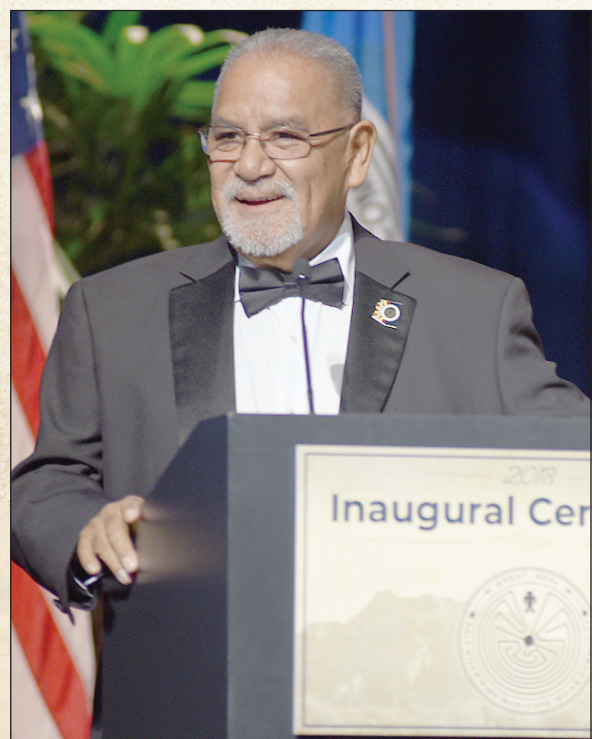


Outgoing President Delbert Ray said a lot has been accomplished in the last four years and there is still unfinished business, but he knows he is leaving the office in good hands.

keeps telling me they are going to be sad they won't be seeing me in the position, but I tell them to turn that emotion around because we need to support this body."

Ray offered words of encouragement to new Council member Cheryl Doka, who was one of six Council members

sworn in for new terms. After Ray ended his speech, he received a standing ovation and cheers as he shook hands with the new Council members.



Outgoing President Delbert Ray, Sr., thanked everyone for their support.

