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For Immediate Release

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The 57th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair and Rodeo Recognizes Community Members for Their Outstanding Contributions and Sacrifices

Veteran of the Year, Elder and the Year and Parade Grand Marshals Announced

SACATON, AZ- The Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) recognizes Community members for their extraordinary contributions made within the Community and beyond. The 57th Annual Mul-Chu-Tha Fair and Rodeo parade takes place Saturday, March 9, and will include those individuals selected for Elder of the Year, Veteran of the Year and Parade Grand Marshals. The individuals selected exemplify what it means to serve their Community and are recognized as leaders within the Gila River Indian Community.

Veteran of the Year – Roland Enos Jr.

Elder of the Year – Burdette B. Morago

Parade Grand Marshals – Barnaby V. Lewis and Brenda Robertson

Roland Enos Jr., District 4, has been recognized as the 2019 Veteran of the Year for his brave sacrifice serving in the United States Marine Corps. Enos was deployed to Iraq in 2008, and to Afghanistan in 2009. After his 4-year enlistment he enrolled at Arizona State University where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Exercise and Wellness. Currently Enos works at Gila River Health Care as the Fitness Manager.

The Elder of the Year selected is Burdette B. Morago of Sacaton, Arizona. Mr. Morago is a graduate of the University of Arizona, where he was a pitcher from 1956-1959. He signed a professional baseball contract with the Boston Red Sox. He completed his degree and returned to work for the Community, initially as a recreation program aide and then as the Tribal Recreation Director, and also as the Director for the Employment and Training Department. Mr. Morago retired from the Community in 2002. He was elected into the University of Arizona Sports Hall of Fame in 2018.

This year the Mul-Chu-Tha parade committee is pleased to announce Barnaby V. Lewis and Brenda Robertson as the parade Grand Marshals. These individuals were selected for their work in preserving the culture, history, and traditions of the Gila River Indian Community. Barnaby V. Lewis, District 1, works for the GRIC Tribal Historic Preservation Office, was appointed in 2018 to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee by the U.S. Secretary of Interior and is recognized as a traditional elder. Brenda Robertson, District 5, is a former Council Representative and known in the Community as an authority of O'otham history, language and culture, and has dedicated her life to being a leader and teaching O'otham culture in the Community.



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Each of these exceptional individual will be a part of the parade and will also be recognized at Community Day on Friday March 8, 2019. For more information on the 57th Annual Fair and Rodeo please visit www.mul-chu-tha.com .

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Gila River Indian Community located on 372,000 acres in south-central Arizona and home to the indigenous O'odham (Pima) and Pee Posh (Maricopa) people. The Tribe is comprised of seven districts, the administrative offices and departments are located in Sacaton, and serve the people throughout these seven community districts. 100% of its profits from gaming and 17 other Enterprises are utilized by the community providing services and opportunities to achieve the highest quality of life.