

Robert Brevelle receives Indian Nation's highest honor

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Adaicaddo, Adai Caddo Indian Nation

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Named for Rufus Joseph Davis Jr., a great chief who fought for the tribe's rights and preserved much of its history, the award is presented annually to a tribal member for selfless service to the Adai Caddo. The 2026 recipient is Robert Brevelle.

The Adai Caddo Indian Nation recognized Robert Brevelle with the Chief Rufus Joseph Davis Jr. Award during its 2026 Powwow in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. The award is the tribe's highest honor.

Robert received the award in recognition of his years of outstanding service to the tribe as councilman at-large and for his work preserving and promoting the history and genealogy of the Adai Caddo.

"It's almost unbelievable to have such a blessing, someone of this caliber to be so passionate about his history and the history of this tribe," said John Mark Davis, Chief of the Adai Caddo Nation. "Not to mention, he is a direct descendant of one of the most famous Native American ancestors of this area, Jean Baptiste Brevelle, for whom Isle Brevelle is named. On behalf of the Adai Caddo Indian Nation, I humbly offer our highest and most prestigious award to Robert."

Robert serves on the Tribal Council as councilman at-large and is the registered agent of the tribe. He assists the chief and council with special projects, government relations, and regulatory compliance and serves as parliamentarian during council meetings. Robert is nationally known as an advocate for Indigenous rights and has been featured in numerous news specials, radio talk shows, and podcasts. He has also played an instrumental role in defending the tribe's state recognition, sovereignty, trademarks, and history.

After graduating with honors from Leesville High School in Vernon Parish, Robert earned a Bachelor of Science, summa cum laude, and a Master of Science from the Illinois Institute of Technology. He went on to earn a Master of Arts from Southeastern University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Dallas, where he was also a doctoral candidate. Robert completed postgraduate work and professional programs in finance, law, and leadership at Southern Methodist University and is a graduate of Cornell University's Executive Leadership Program. He attended these universities on full scholarship and was a member of the National Honor Society, Tau Beta Pi, Mensa, and the International High IQ Society.

A credentialed genealogist and Louisiana historian, Robert is a fellow of the Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society and has served as chairman, president, and trustee of several of the state's historical societies. His honors include the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Baton Rouge Historical Society and the Evangeline Lifetime Achievement Award for Culture and Conservation. He also received the state genealogical and historical society's highest honor with his induction into the Order of Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle.

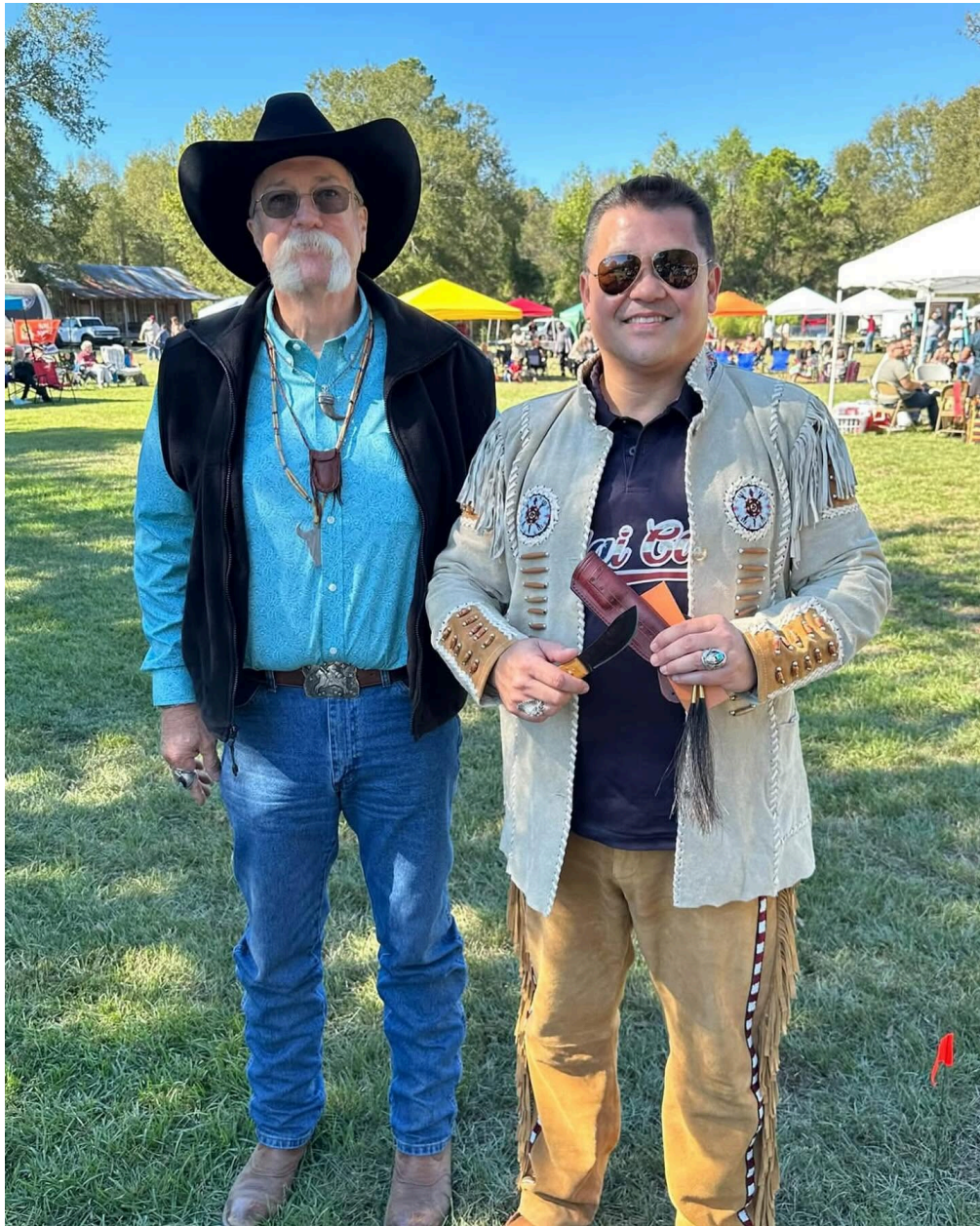
"I am deeply touched and humbled to receive this recognition," said Robert Brevelle. "I will strive to honor the memory and legacy of our late Chief Rufus Joseph Davis Jr. and to serve our people with the same dedication and devotion that he exemplified throughout his life. May God bless the Adai Caddo and guide our children in faith, that they may love and serve one another, our Nation, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

The Chief Rufus Joseph Davis Jr. Award recognizes a tribal member whose selfless service and extraordinary actions have greatly benefited or protected the Adai Caddo Indian Nation. In doing so, the award honors the sacrifice, service,

and memory of Chief Rufus Joseph Davis Jr. Recipients are permanently memorialized on a large bronze plaque displayed at the Adai Caddo Cultural Center.



Chief John Mark Davis, son of the late Chief Rufus Joseph Davis Jr., presented Robert with a personalized walnut plaque and a tomahawk that also serves as a calumet, or peace pipe.



Fellow Adai Caddo Indian Paul Vercher, of Old Henly Knife and Tool Co., presented Robert with a custom skinning knife featuring a bois d'arc handle and a hand-tooled leather sheath adorned with beads and horsehair.

Robert and Adai Caddo historian Dee Niette Thompson are co-authoring a book exploring the history of the tribe and generations of its military veterans who served under the French and Spanish colonial governments of Louisiana and Texas and, later, the United States. *The Savage's Creed: Chronicles of the Adai Caddo Warriors* is being published by the Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society and will be available through Ingram, the world's largest book distributor, as well as the Library of Congress.

"I serve the tribe so that my son, and all of our children, can grow up with pride in knowing that they are descendants of the first peoples of this land," said Robert. "Our ancestors were explorers, farmers, hunters, traders, and warriors, known for their beauty, honesty, and bravery. We were not bandits or nomads whose history here was brief or passing. We have been here since time immemorial. Our people helped establish and defend Louisiana, Texas, and the United States, and for centuries we helped foster the Catholic faith in this region. Through a knowledge of our history and

culture, our children will inherit a deep love for this land and for our people. They will grow up with a strong sense of kinship, identity, and confidence—prepared to share the story of our past and to contribute to our future. Wherever their lives may take them, they will know who they are, where they come from, and that this part of Louisiana has always been, and will forever remain, home.”

To learn more about the Adai Caddo,
visit <https://www.adaicaddo.com/> or <https://www.youtube.com/@AdaiCaddoIndianNation>.

