

QUAPAW NATION SPOTLIGHT: JOHN MILLARD

How did you get into your field?

I was a mechanic by trade and law enforcement had always fascinated me, so I started doing citizen ride alongs with a friend who worked for Newton County. I fell in love with the excitement and signed up for the Police Academy at MSSU. After that, I went to work for Nevada, MO Police Department where I started in the patrol division. Over my career there I worked in traffic, narcotics investigations and eventually became a Patrol Sergeant, which I enjoyed for 11 years! In late 2012, my wife Sabrina informed me of a job as a School Resource Officer position with the Quapaw Nation Marshals and I applied. I got the job and have been the School Resource Officer for Quapaw Public Schools since January of 2013. I absolutely love my job for the Marshals as a School Resource Officer!



How long have you worked for the Quapaw Nation?

12 years

What do you like about working for the Quapaw Nation?

I like the family culture and atmosphere, specifically in the Department of Public Safety. I feel like my leaders give me the freedom to do my job and encourage me to do what I need to do to make a difference in the community. I have implemented many programs over the years to benefit the community and tribal members in the Quapaw area and I don't think it would have been possible without the support of my command staff at the Marshals Office!

What are your favorite Quapaw Nation events or traditions?

I really enjoy working the Pow-Wow every year. It is a great time to connect with my Quapaw family and to work with some of our guys that I don't see a lot throughout the year since I'm primarily at the school!

What are some of your favorite memories with the tribe?

My favorite memories are too many to list, but they all come from being given the opportunity to give back to my tribe and my community through my work. I am blessed and humbled to be able to work and serve in the community in which my wife and I are raising our family. The Quapaw Nation Marshals and Quapaw Nation has given me a blank canvas over the years on which to build so many neat programs and partnerships within the school and community. I don't take that for granted and I am grateful every day for it and also for the impact I am able to make through this opportunity.

What does it mean to you to be a member of the Quapaw Nation?

I take pride in being a member of the Quapaw Nation for many reasons. I am proud of the growth over the years, and it feels great to be a part of something bigger than yourself! We continue to improve as a nation and it is super neat to be one of the many moving parts of that!

What are some important cultural traditions that you actively practice or have learned from elders?

The most important thing that I believe in and have learned from my elders is RESPECT for myself and others. I try and honor them by practicing respect every day.

Who are some tribal leaders or elders who have inspired you, and why?

My late mom, Terry Buffalo-Millard, always encouraged me to shoot for the moon and to believe in myself. She taught me that I would never be wrong to do the right thing and to be a good person. My command staff at the Marshals, Sgt Stephen Harper, Sgt Josh Whitely, Lt. Ethan Crow, Deputy Director Brad Barnard and Director of Public Safety Charles Addington. These guys inspire me by believing in my programs and sometimes crazy ideas. They give

me the freedom and the help to implement my ideas into the school and community. I started the Quapaw Nation Marshals School Resource Officer program with no handbook, and they have helped and enabled me to build it into something that I believe is truly special. There is always work to do and progress to make, but they believe in me and allow me to do the work.

What changes would you like to see in the Quapaw Nation?

Keep moving forward and growing! Gradual shifts in the right direction will eventually lead to a completely different destination!

What are you passionate about outside of your job?

Family. I live for my wife Sabrina and our children. They are my biggest motivator to get up and continue to be the best version of myself on a daily basis.

What are some of your proudest accomplishments? This doesn't have to pertain to being a Quapaw tribal member or employee.

My family. The work put in as a School Resource Officer for the Marshals. It is so rewarding to see current and long graduated students come up to me and tell me I made a difference in their lives. Can't put a price or a feeling on that but it's amazing.

Tell us about yourself!

I am 45 years old, love my family, my job and working out! Outside of work I am a home body and love to be outside. I am happiest when I am around my people! I truly feel blessed to wake up every day and be the best husband and father that I can be. I am honored to be the School Resource Officer for Quapaw Schools. The magic of working around great kids everyday never lets me down.

