

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT SERIES: RICHARD SHAPP SR.



How many years did you work for Quapaw Casino?

Valentine's Day would have made it 16 years working for Quapaw Casino.

What was your job title?

Count team manager

How did you get into your field?

I was living in Florida and was visiting Oklahoma for the Powwow. During my visit, I heard that the casino needed help. I was very interested, so I applied, got the job, and moved here six months later. Before this, I had almost 30 years of experience in retail management in Florida.

What are you going to miss?

I am going to miss the customers and employees alike. It's such a family atmosphere, nothing like I've ever experienced before.

What was your favorite part working at Quapaw Casino?

I loved being able to guide and lead. I was able to teach my crew to respect and take care of the customers too. I always made it a priority to take care of the customers and made some memorable friends along the way.

What's your favorite Quapaw Nation event?

I really enjoy the Powwow and the yearly health fair.

Who are some tribal leaders and elders who inspire you and why?

Sonny Glass inspired me because he was always in it for the tribe. We used to have conversations about the tribe and I really enjoyed those talks. I always had a lot of respect for him.

What are you passionate about outside your job?

When I relax, I like to watch sports and action movies. I also like to reminisce about all the states I have visited, 38 to be exact. I am proud to have had this experience because it taught me a lot about people and how to talk to them, I am very thankful to my parents for this opportunity. I learned to be nice to everyone and that race doesn't matter.

What are your plans now?

It will be an adjustment, but I really want to enjoy my retirement. For now, I am going to focus on my health, work on my house, and try to enjoy the outdoors whenever I can.

Proudest accomplishment?

I am proud that my voice was heard while working at the casino and was able to get things done like yellow paint at the C-Store, a bench out back for the employees, and most importantly, flag poles outside the casino. I am also glad I moved here from Florida because I was able to get my family cemetery restored and put on regular maintenance that has since been taken over by my younger relatives.

Tell us about yourself, what makes you unique?

I'm glad I have survived this long; I didn't think I would make it to 62 but I did. I have lived a very interesting life and now I am looking forward to retirement.

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