

# CUEL ATAH

*The Star People*

*The latest news and updates  
from the Juaneno Band of  
Mission Indians -  
Acjachemen Nation*



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## NEW YEAR, NEW HOPE

*by Chairwoman Heidi Lucero*

Happy New Year! New Year's resolutions create hope and prosperity for the year to come. Myself and the rest of Tribal Council wish you all a happy and healthy New Year, one filled with the reuniting of our tribal family. Along with my personal New Year's resolutions, I also have a tribal New Year's resolution, which is to successfully restore the our nonprofit status. Please keep us in prayer as we do this labor intensive work.



Speaking of New Year's resolutions, please consider giving TSR (tribal self reliance) on a monthly basis. TSR help the tribe fulfill its monthly obligations such as rent, phone, utilities, insurance, office supplies, and more. It is through your monthly TRS that we can continue to do the good work we are doing as Tribal Council.

The Harvest and Christmas celebrations were a hit. We had a great turnout at both events with lots of food, family, and fun. I want to personally than Chena's helpers from her work, not only did they do an enormous amount of work, we had a great time doing it. Hope to see them again next event.

January was a bit rough with several tribal members passing and in the hospital due to Covid-19. Please be vigilant with mask-wearing and hand hygiene, our small community cannot continue to lose members to this pandemic. Please stay safe everyone. In light of this information, we will be holding meetings remotely using Zoom until it is safe for all our members to meet face to face.

March will be here before you know it and Tribal Council is preparing for the Swallows Day Parade. We will be having a float but instead of horses, we will have horsepower. A virus has been going through the equestrian circuit and there will not be any horse-drawn wagons but that isn't stopping us.

We are continuing the work on our federal recognition petition through the ANA grant. We have Michelle Kiel and Mark Tilden continuing to work and advise us, with the help of Jean Kelley and Lorraine Escobar. The future for our petition looks bright. Thank you to everyone who has helped on the grant both with this administration and the last. It is the hard work of our members that will see us through to a strong petition for federal recognition.

The City of San Juan Capistrano approved our license agreement for Tribal Hall. The city has been wonderful and very communicative throughout the whole process. I want to thank Heidi Ivanoff and Charlie View for their hard work and patience with the tribe since the July election.

The Tribal Council and I hope to see everyone whether face-to-face or via Zoom in the coming months and hope that our tribal family and extended families have a happy and prosperous New Year.

## VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

by Joseph Martinez

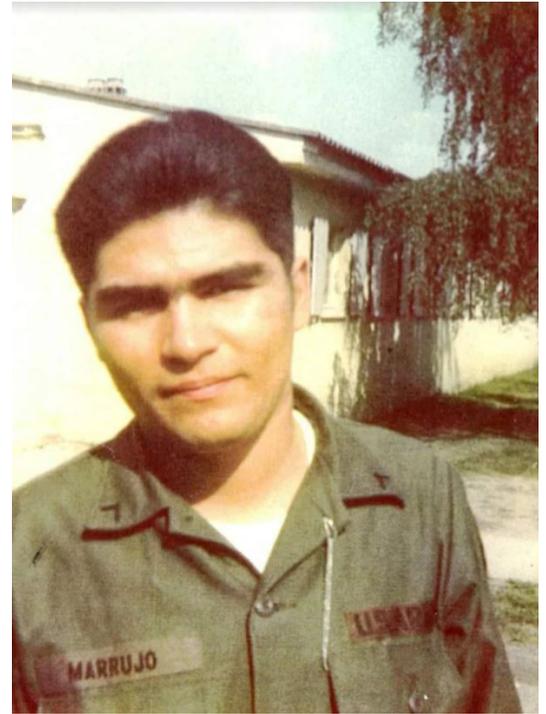
Army Veteran Tino Marrujo enlisted in the Army in November of 1974. Shockingly he did this at the age of 16 and was only in the 10th grade. He made the decision to join the military to stay out of trouble and to be away from home for a while. How did he get away with this? His recruiter changed his birth year on his birth certificate for him to join along with the signature of his parents.

Tino chose the Army because the recruiter had said his scores were a great fit for the Army. Another reason he joined was that the Army had a program they called the "Buddy System". This meant that you would be with your buddy. So, he joined with his friend Gilbert Castillo.



He remembers showing up at Fort Ord in Monterey California at 2 in the morning in the pouring rain. Once he got off the bus, they immediately separated him and Gilbert. He didn't see him for 3 months and when he asked about the Buddy System they said they were assigned to the same base. In addition, Tino was unaware that our Country was at war in Vietnam. Therefore, during boot camp, he received war training. He admitted it was a pretty difficult training. The main challenge was keeping his age a secret. It was mentally challenging for him to deal with adults as a teenager. Tino recalls the physical part to be the least of his worries because he was young, healthy, and strong.

After completing boot camp he went to AIT (Advanced Individual Training) to become a 36C (Wire Systems Installer/Operator). He was not given a choice of career, he was assigned to be a 36C. Soon he realized this job required him to climb telephone poles. He admitted, "I was scared to death of heights", but at this point, he had no choice. Tino recalls a time when he was to climb a pole for training that was about 30' high. He miss stepped and fell down the pole. He had a harness on, but did get banged up and bloody on the way down. The instructor came to check on him and asked if he was okay. He said, "Yes, I am okay." The instructor responded, "Well, get back up there then!" Once he graduated from AIT, he was sent to "The Rock" Kirch Gons in Germany.



Tino was stationed at "The Rock" where he met his best friend Jim. They were roommates and they got to travel all around Germany. He recalls walking all around the countryside and checking out an abandoned castle. They also traveled by train to get around. He also remembered going to Luxembourg where he was amazed by how houses were built on the side of the canyons. While in Germany he was able to earn his GED. Tino had the pleasure of meeting President Gerald R. Ford Jr. During his time stationed in Germany he received the Presidential Unit Citation.

While serving in the military, you are always training. Tino received training to be an O5F (Radio Teletypewriter Operator). He felt that he was working on some space-age equipment. There were no cell phones back then so being able to talk to people around the world was amazing at that time. He remembers being dropped off in the famous Black forest at night with a flashlight; they were expected to navigate themselves back to base 20 - 30 miles away while evading two other teams that would be out looking for them. They literally had to break back into base without being captured. He also got the opportunity to train at Grafenwohr base with an Iris Special Forces unit. He said, "those guys could really drink". It was at this location he did night training. One day while training in the tanks, he started a brush fire with tracer rounds. He said he really enjoyed loading the track communications tanks onto the trains.

Once Tino's 2-year active duty enlistment ended in 1976, he continued to serve in the Army Reserves at Fort Irwin Army Base in Barstow, California. After completing his next 2-year contract he then joined the Army National Guard in Los Alamitos, California. Tino completed his last contract in 1980 and out processed. He stated he was nervous, but also excited to finish his enlistment.

Tino completed 6 years in the Army. He is now a member of the American Legion in Perris. He really enjoys going to their Friday dinner events. I asked how his service and experiences affect his life. He said, "I had installed cable TV for 30+ years, the military helped me get a house and I learned if you are going to do something, do it right". Tino said, "Joining the Army was the best move he had ever made. If he could do it all over again he would have stayed until retirement".

It was an honor to interview Mr. Marrujo. On behalf of the Veteran Committee and Acjachemen Nation, we thank you Tino Marrujo for your service to the United States Army. Thank you for telling us about your unique military journey. We greatly appreciate your willingness to share it with us.

If you are Veteran and would like to share your story with the tribe, please contact the Veteran Committee Director at [webdirector@jbmian.com](mailto:webdirector@jbmian.com)

# VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REFLECTION

by Dr. Richard Rodman

Dear Tribal Family,

It's a new year, and thanks in large part to Heidi's hard work, we as a Tribe are doing much better. We had successful Thanksgiving and Christmas get-togethers. This time thanks are due to Chena (she organized both events). My wife Denise and I were out of town for the Thanksgiving event, but we did make it to the Christmas one. It always feels great to see my Tribal Family and to see you all interact with one another. That is very special to me; I think that's what most of us want: to see our families get along and love each other.



As I look ahead to 2022 I would really like to see our Tribe become closer. I have attended church most of my adult life and have volunteered in some ministry the whole time. For about the last two years I have come to SJC on Tuesdays after work to have dinner with my dad John, my sister Tina, and my niece Melissa. We usually go to the El Adobe, The Swallows, or Harpoon Henry's and have a meal while we chat about life. The deepest friendships I have at church are with people I volunteer alongside. The relationship I have with my Dad, sister, and niece has grown more broad and deepened. I really believe that if Tribal members would become more involved in the Tribe, we would have similar experiences; we would become closer as we worked together, shared meals together, and generally shared our lives.

There are some really big challenges ahead for the Tribe: our non-profit, our taxes, ... It would be wonderful if Tribal members would volunteer some time to overcome these challenges. A way we can all become more involved is by attending meetings. With our transition to online (Zoom) meetings, Tribal members can stay informed no matter where they are. And like Barbara Ann Parent and Jim Preston, they can volunteer even though they don't live close by. By attending meetings I think Tribal members will hear the needs and maybe be prompted to say, "I can help with that."

I hope you all have a wonderful 2022!

In your service,  
Richard

“ I CAN HELP WITH THAT ”

## Health & Wellness

by Patricia Dixon

The last two years have been difficult. Our personal, and professional lives have dramatically changed and change isn't always an easy adjustment.

As a New Year is approaching, many of us set personal, professional, and financial goals. Things to take into account when setting goals is to ask if the expectations are realistic. When one sets an objective that is too high, it can lead to anxiety, depression, and feelings of failure. If the goals are to lose weight, save money, and or advance in a profession, the objective should be to progress and strive for continuous improvement, not for perfection. A realistic time should be set for reevaluation to track progress. Remember, New Year's goals should not be set in stone. They may need to be reassessed for reevaluation.



An important example that helps with general wellness is eating healthy. This can be done by decreasing the intake of pasta, rice, bread, and sugar and increasing fruits and vegetables instead. Exercise is another key component of wellness. Working out three to five days a week is ideal. Walking briskly for 30 to 45 minutes, Pilates, yoga, and stretching are examples to help keep our joints moving and improve balance.

A word about COVID 19. This virus will continue to mutate into different strains. How contagious these new strains will be is unknown. COVID 19 will be around for some time, however, we should not live in fear. Continue to take precautions such as hand washing, wearing a mask when out in public, and getting tested if you have symptoms. Vaccinations and boosters are the best protection from getting a severe infection.

Our personal, and professional lives may have changed and may not be the same but it doesn't mean we can't evolve and strive for continuous improvement in our health and wellness.

## Language Corner

I'm pleased to have met you.

Noo no\$uunup  
looviq 'oy 'onninik

Now I've got to go.

Wam' noo  
'angee

LEARN  
YOUR  
LANGUAGE



Contributed by Kelina Lobo

Pro Tip: The accented letter means that it is pronounced a little louder than the rest of the word. The vowels are like Spanish "A, E, I, O, U."

[For more pronunciation tips click here!](#)

Goodbye. I hope I'll see you again.

Yu'pannupo  
'oy tiwin

# In Memoriam



Johnny Saucedo



DJ Sommers



Monica Clifton



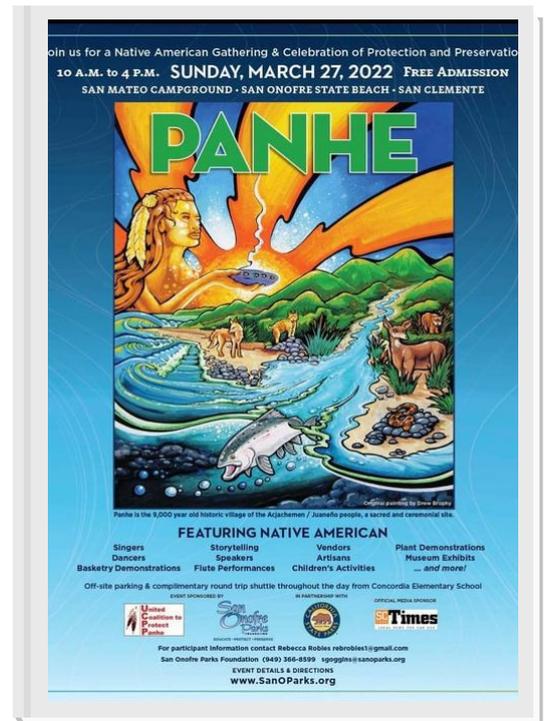
Chana Martinez

*"We shall find peace. We shall hear angels, we shall see the sky sparkling with diamonds."*

- Anton Chekov

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Every Saturday - Oak Tree @ Putuidem with Adelia
- March 27, 2022 - Panhe @ San Mateo Campgrounds, San Onofre
- March 27, 2022 - Planting Stick Ceremony (following Panhe)



### CONTACT US:

[webdirector@jbmian.com](mailto:webdirector@jbmian.com)

#### Tribal Council

Heidi Lucero, Chairwoman  
Dr. Richard Rodman, Vice Chairman  
Georgia Edmundson, Secretary  
Sabrina Banda, Member-At-Large  
Shannon Wingfield, Member-At-Large



<https://www.facebook.com/jbmianofficial>

[WWW.JBMIAN.COM](http://WWW.JBMIAN.COM)

# Updates!



Tribal Van Acquired  
Chairwoman Heidi, with the help of the OC Sheriff, has picked up the van from Teresa's house. The van was inspected and serviced by Vice Chairman Richard Rodman.

# Swallows Day Parade

Thank you to George Bernal for paying for this year's float. Thank you to Robin De La Torre & Madeline Barbosa for purchasing the flowers used to decorate the float.



Our float won 1st place!



We aren't  
a Tribe  
without you!

**Want to contribute to the newsletter?**

- Have a Veteran to spotlight?
- Have an idea for an article?
- Have an event to share?

Email us - [webdirector@jbmian.com](mailto:webdirector@jbmian.com)



Juañeno Band of Mission Indians  
Acjachemen Nation  
31411-A La Matanza  
San Juan Capistrano CA 92675

