

Chief Gary Batton



Chief Gary Batton is the 47th Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the third largest Indian tribe in the United States. After being sworn into the Office of the Chief in 2014, Chief Batton set a clear direction in his inaugural address indicating a specific vision for his administration. He believes his main purpose is to create a better future for the Choctaw people. He spends countless hours in the communities with the tribal members he serves. He works to protect their culture, provide opportunities for education, improved healthcare, employment, and ultimately, do what is best for Choctaws.

Under Chief Batton's administration, the Choctaw Nation opened a large expansion to its health clinic in Poteau, three new wellness centers, two Chili's franchises, a Travel Plaza in Antlers, an expansion to its resort in Durant, a community center in McAlester, two food distribution centers, a country market and a new independent living community for Choctaw elders. Chief Batton also created several new programs to assist tribal members like the Next Step supplemental food program, Reintegration and Job for the Day. The additional facilities and programs added more than 2,000 jobs to southeastern Oklahoma during his first two years in office.

The growth continues with numerous projects in the planning and construction phases. These include country markets, head starts, a wellness center, a community center, a regional health clinic, a travel plaza and a new tribal headquarters just to name a few.

Chief Batton and his wife, Angie, make their home in Clayton, Oklahoma. They have two children, Stacy and David, and two grandchildren.