

Chairman Daniel Tucker to be Honored with the Tim Wapato Sovereign Warrior Award

Washington DC (March 8, 2016) – National Indian Gaming Association announced today, the award recipient of the 6th annual Tim Wapato Sovereign Warrior Award, Chairman Daniel Tucker - recently retired Chairman of the California Nations Indian Gaming Association (CNIGA). The Tim Wapato Sovereign Warrior Award will be presented during Indian Gaming Tradeshow & Convention Cultural Ceremony on Monday, March 14th at the Phoenix Convention Center.

Tim Wapato, who passed on in April 2009, was a citizen of the Wenatchee Band of the Colville Confederated Tribes in Washington State. He retired from the Los Angeles Police Department in 1979 and went on to be the executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and in 1989 he was appointed commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans.

“Tim was known as an advocate for tribal sovereignty”, said Chairman Ernie Stevens “Each year we look to honor a member of our tribal community who shares the passion and drive that Tim had. We are thrilled to be able to present the award this year to Chairman Daniel Tucker. Chairman Tucker has been an avid Warrior of Tribal Sovereignty in the thirty years that he has served Indian Country. Chairman Tucker played a very significant role in bringing the NIGA Team together to create a powerful gaming presence in Washington DC. The National Indian Gaming Association is appreciative of Chairman Tucker’s leadership role in advocating for Tribal Sovereignty on the Hill and throughout the Country. We thank him for his tireless efforts and his significant contributions to the protection of Tribal Sovereignty.

Gay Kingman-Wapato, Executive Director, Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association shared, *“Chairman Tucker’s vision and guidance have been felt throughout Indian Country. His dedication to making tribal government an essential part of California Gaming is an inspiration to all of us.”*

Chairman Tucker’s dedication has been the driving force in making Native American gaming an essential device to local economies. Beginning his service to Indian Country in 1986, he has lead more than 70 California tribes in a quest to protect tribal gaming rights and pioneering the first successful tribal gaming legislation in California history to win bi-partisan support. Chairman Tucker was the first Native American leader to formally address the California State legislature resulting in a standing ovation for his advocacy of tribal sovereignty and Indian gaming rights. The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) has recognized him with the John Keefer Award for his tireless dedication to protecting tribal gaming. Tucker played a vital role in the successful passage of Proposition 1A, which created an amendment to the California Constitution, ensuring Indian self-reliance in the state. He has worked with the White House and members of Congress to achieve collaboration for tribal government gaming. Tucker continues to be a spokesperson for tribal governments on a regional and national level, recognized as an authority in the Indian Gaming Industry by the likes of NBC-TV, ABC-TV, The Los Angeles Times, Indian Gaming Magazine and the Associated Press to name a few.

Tucker is the past Chairman of the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation in San Diego. During his tenure, and with the help of others, he has administered and managed unprecedented growth of one of the

largest gaming facilities in the state of California as well as the diversification of Sycuan's business interests, including the hospitality and hotel development industry.

For more information on the 6th Annual Tim Wapato Sovereign Warrior Award visit indiangaming.org and for more information on the Indian Gaming Tradeshow & Convention visit indiangamingtradeshow.com

About National Indian Gaming: