

# MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN BERNARD BARCENA

January 28, 2025



As we plan for a prosperous and productive 2025, I want to reflect on our accomplishments and milestones of 2024. We have made significant progress, honoring our traditions while building a stronger future.

One of our proudest moments occurred on March 27, 2024, with the completion of the structural project to protect our Cemeterio de los Lipanes in Presidio, Texas. This sacred site serves as a testament to our enduring legacy. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Big Bend Conservation Association for their invaluable partnership in making this project a reality. We are also sincerely thankful to the people of Presidio for their ongoing support in preserving El Cementerio, and to the MASS Design Group, the Melon Foundation, and everyone who contributed to this effort.

In September, we hosted our inaugural Veterans Pow Wow in Corpus Christi, Texas. This competition powwow was a remarkable success, drawing over 1,000 attendees and dancers from tribes across the country. We were also incredibly honored to have our tribe designated by the Military Order of the Purple Heart as the first Purple Heart Tribe in Texas and one of only a few in the nation.

In addition to the Purple Heart Tribe presentation, we were deeply honored to welcome Texas State Representative Todd Hunter, who presented at the Veterans Pow Wowa special resolution from the State of Texas. This resolution commemorated our tribe and celebrated the significance of our 2024 Veterans Pow Wow.

Our community also came together in Alton, Texas, for our 54th annual Nde Daa (spring) and Dakee Si (fall) powwows held in March and October, celebrating our culture and traditions.

I am excited to announce the launch of a Digital Literacy Program designed to empower our tribal community in today's digital age. We officially kicked off this initiative on January 10, 2025, by distributing laptops to 50 of our members. This generous donation was made possible by AT&T and co-hosted by the Inter-Tribal Council of AT&T Employees (ICAE). We are truly grateful for this gift, as it will help bridge the digital divide and create new opportunities for our community. Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting program.

As we close one chapter and begin another, I want to wish you and your families a happy and prosperous 2025. We will continue to honor our Lipan legacy and cultural practices while striving to build a brighter future for the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas.

Bernard Barcena, Chairman  
Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas