

Evanston

Sentinel

Mitchell Museum Exhibits Asks 'Did You Know They Are Native Amreicans?'

A new exhibit at the Mitchell Museum of the American in Evanston spotlights high-achieving Native Americans of the present and past.

Organized by the Mitchell, "Did You Know They Are Native?" opened July 23, 2011 and will remain on view through January 8, 2012. The Mitchell is located at 3001 Central Street in Evanston

The display consists of photos and biographical information depicting 24 noteworthy people of Native American descent, "celebrities and industry leaders that you may not have known were Native and new faces that have also made major contributions in their field," according to exhibit materials.

"While individuals featured in this exhibit have varying percentages of Native ancestry, they have all celebrated this important part of their heritage," the museum says.

The roster includes David W. Anderson, founder of Famous Dave's barbecue restaurant chain; Fred Begay, nuclear physicist; Notah Begay III, professional golfer; Chuck Billy, vocalist with the rock band Testament; Mary Katherine Campbell, two-time winner of the Miss America pageant; Lyda Conley, first female Native American attorney; Rita Coolidge, Grammy Award-winning musician; Polly Cooper, who helped Gen. George Washington's army at Valley Forge; Joseph Medicine Crow, recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom; Charles Curtis, thirty-first vice president of the United States; Jimi Hendrix, rock musician; and Levi Horn, Chicago Bears offensive tackle.

Also: James Earl Jones, actor; Edmonia Lewis, sculptor; Naomi Lang, Olympic athlete and cham-

pionship ice dancer; Carlos Montezuma, physician and early advocate for Native rights; Ely S. Parker, adjutant to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant during the Civil War and the first Indian Commissioner of Indian Affairs; Susan La Flesche Picott, physician; Will Rogers, humorist and actor; Andra M. Rush, founder, president, and CEO of Rush Trucking Corporation; Louis Sockalexis, early major-league baseball player; Taboo (Jaime Luis Gomez), member of the band the Black Eyed Peas; Vickie Wessel, co-founder of Spirit Electronics; and Jim S. Williamson, founder and CEO of New West Technologies, LLC.

In the exhibit area, visitors can submit names and information about Native Americans they'd like to see featured. Books of Native American biographies are available, and visitors can leave with a printed handout of sources for further research.

This program is made possible in part by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly.

Admission to the exhibit is included with Mitchell Museum admission, which is \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors, students, teachers (with valid school ID), and children. Maximum admission per family is \$10. Admission is free for Mitchell Museum members and tribal members. Admission is also free for active-duty military personnel and their immediate families as part of the national Blue Star Museums program through September 4. Admission is free to everyone on the first Friday of every month. The independent, nonprofit Mitchell Museum is at 3001 Central St., Evanston. For information, phone (847) 475-1030. On the Net: <http://www.mitchellmuseum.org>.