

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee!

I recently attended the national conference of the National Federation of Women Legislators in Phoenix. I learned much in sessions devoted to violence against Native American women, next generation education, business and economic development and veterans affairs. Also informative were sessions on inter-governmental and inter-tribal agencies working together and workshops on crime, justice, wildlife, terrorism and substance abuse. Many of the sessions were led by legislators from various States and officials from Washington, DC.

The Assistant Secretary of veterans Affairs was excellent in his promotion of things beneficial to all veterans. The closing of military bases affects every State and our veterans' hospitals are responsible for providing health care to millions of veterans. I am a big supporter of our veterans and the Chickasaw Honor Guard.

Kudos to Governor Anoatubby for honoring our Chickasaw veterans! The Governor is providing jackets commemorating the service of our veteran senior citizens (over 60 years old). To receive an application, contact the office of Karen Cook, Administrator for Aging Services at (580) 795-9790 or by email to karen.cook@chickasaw.net.

Administrator Bill Lance treated the Legislators to an introduction of the Master Plan for the Health System on September 21. I must say that plans for expansion of the health facilities and services are almost overwhelming. In a few short years or less, we will have much more to offer Chickasaws wherever they live. Mr. Lance also provided the following information:

In the month of August, 2005, there were 244 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 15,036. August Emergency Room visits were 1,089. August saw 316 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 3,680 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 4,883 patients in August. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,995 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,696. The Durant Clinic saw 2,631 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 1,482.

Please contact me through my email address mary.green@chickasaw.net or through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. My articles are also located on the web site. I look forward to speaking with you! Until next month, thank you.