

# “Start Today For A Better Future”

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Bobby Gonzalez was born on September 23, 1968 in Andrews, Texas to Evelyn Kay Kionute, and Jose Gonzalez. During the time of birth, the Doctors didn't know if they would both make it. A prayer meeting was held and conducted by the late Frances and Howard Williams at the "Kionute" family homestead in Fort Cobb, Oklahoma also known as "The Place of the Soldier." As a result, they both survived. He is the only child and is allowed to wear "Red" signifying life and was given the Caddo name Hasiinay Sho-e (Caddo Boy) by the late Clara Longhat Brown. He was Baptized Catholic and was given the name "Robert Joseph."

Bobby was raised in Binger, Oklahoma and attended school there locally and later attended Riverside Indian School. During his senior year he married Kari Starr (Kiowa/Apache), and from this union they raised seven beautiful enrolled Caddo children. His children have all been raised traditionally, and within the Caddo Native American Church.

In 1998 Bobby was elected to the Caddo Nation Tribal Council and wrote the Oil and Gas Resolution taxing big oil and gas companies, and putting an end to those companies paying Caddo money to the State of Oklahoma. He was instrumental in the development of the "To Bridge the Gap Conference" and coined the phrase. Today, it is a nationally recognized conference held by tribes each year across the country working with the United States Forest Service (USFS) to strengthen government-to-government relations. He received the "Gridlock Braking Award," one of the highest awards in the USFS.

Bobby has received numerous awards by Military Branches (civilian) including one from the Adjutant General of Oklahoma Army National Guard for outstanding performance. He received the Oklahoma American Flagship Ammunition Plant Award and worked with the Pentagon on Environmental and Cultural issues important to all tribes across the United States.

Bobby was instrumental in creating the first 101(d)2 THPO Office in the State of Oklahoma, which is an Off Reservation THPO Office and opened the door for other tribes across the country to receive the same status. In 2009 in Washington D.C., he testified before the House of Natural Resource Committee regarding "Federal" Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) compliance. In 2015, he was asked to be a guest speaker by the Department of Energy (DOE), at the first Tribal Energy Summit to discuss cultural concerns of tribes related to energy development projects. He has worked across Indian Country all over the United States with tribes on and off reservations to protect their interest in the environment, and their culture, and has authored numerous publications, journals, and works with private industry.

Bobby continues to work with tribes today and is called upon occasions by the FBI regarding looting activities on federal lands, and by the Department of Energy (DOE) regarding consultation with tribes. He works with Private Industry, Federal Agencies, and with other Tribal Nations on some of the biggest projects in North America. Today, he is an entrepreneur, and a successful business man. He enjoys putting Native people to work across the United States. He is a Subject Matter Expert (SME) in Tribal and Government relations and owns the only Native Owned Company that is a member of the Interstate Gas Association of America. He sat on the Oil and Gas Transportation Infrastructure Committee within the National Petroleum Council in Washington D.C.

Bobby is a unique combination of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century business owner while maintaining his core Caddo Values in what was shown to him by the Caddo people and the elders who spoke Caddo. Aside from his work and achievements in Indian Country, he enjoys purchasing real estate, sculpting, painting, and helping others. He takes pride in his culture, and has been very blessed to witness the teachings of some of the last fluent speaking Caddo elders. His greatest joys in life are his faith in God, his family, children, and all ten of his grandchildren.