

WILMA MANKILLER
FIRST FEMALE PRINCIPAL CHIEF OF THE CHEROKEE NATION

Wilma Mankiller served for two years as the first female elected deputy chief and for ten years as first female principal chief of the 137,000 member Cherokee Nation. She oversaw an annual budget of more than \$100 million and a staff of more than 1,000. Her areas of expertise include leadership, governance, community development and the conceptualization and development of an extensive array of projects ranging from basic infrastructure and enterprises to health clinics and programs for children and youth.

As a powerful force in the Cherokee nation, Mankiller is one of a handful of Native American recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She has also been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame, the International Women's Hall of Fame, the Minority Business Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame, and the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. She has 18 honorary doctorates from universities, including Yale, Dartmouth and Smith Colleges.

Mankiller has chronicled her life as an icon in *Mankiller: A Chief and Her People* and is co-editor of *A Reader's Companion to the History of Women in the US*. Her latest book, *Every Day is a Good Day: Reflections of Contemporary Indigenous Women*, offers a passionate gathering of the voices of proud indigenous women.