

MISS TAYLOR CHRISTIANNA THOMAS

Shoshone-Bannock, Kickapoo and Prairie Band Potawatomi, Fort Hall, Idaho

Ne nanahnih Onsoquah, ne Sosoni Bannite, Kickapoo, and Prairie Band Potawatomi, ne Fort Hall, Idaho naite, tsaan dia neesungahk.

Greetings in my Shoshone language! My name is Taylor Christianna Thomas, and my Indian name is "How The Elk Walks." I am Shoshone-Bannock, Kickapoo, and Prairie Band Potawatomi. I am from the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in Southeast Idaho and I am feeling wonderful! I am the daughter of Wendy Farmer, Shoshone-Bannock of Idaho and Jason Thomas Kickapoo and Potawatomi of Kansas, sisters Joi Thomas and Myke Moore. My maternal grandparents are the late Iva Lee Osborne and Joseph Farmer of Idaho; and my paternal grandparents are John (Ruth) Thomas and Bernadette Masqua Thomas of Kansas.

I'd like to welcome everyone to the 2015 Gathering of Nations Powwow! My reign as Miss Indian World has been a blessing, and I am honored to have represented all of Indian Country across the world. I am overwhelmed with happiness as I look back on my journeys, and I am a happy to say that Indian Country truly is a beautiful place in this world. While traveling, and meeting people I learned a good deal about the hardships many face throughout our communities, but I have also learned that we have so many amazingly great things coming from our peoples. We are a beautiful people that are a powerful force to be reckoned with, and there is a bright light in each and everyone one of us that must be recognized within each other and ourselves.

One of the greatest highlights of my Miss Indian World journey has been meeting President Barack Obama in

my tribe to be noted on Congressional record, the first Miss Indian World, and the only living person, as well as the first woman to be recognized from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. I also spoke at the National Congress of American Indians Youth Honoring Luncheon, the National Indian Gaming Association conference, the Northwest Intertribal Youth Conference where I had a session dedicated to Women Leadership, and Sovereignty. I also rode in a canoe for the first time attending the Salmon Ceremony with the Tulalip people, and I rode horses in the Comanche Fair, and Pendleton Round Up parades. I enjoyed speaking at, and attending conferences, powwows, and gatherings in Idaho, Utah, California, Washington, Florida, Georgia, Montana, Oregon, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Kansas, Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

Thank you so much to my beautiful mother for believing in all my dreams, and ambitions within my heart, I am entirely blessed to have you as my mother, friend, and greatest influence in my life. Thank you to my family for always rallying, and for being there to support me when I needed you the most. Thank you to my Shoshone-Bannock and Kickapoo tribes for being a strong supporting foundation for me throughout my reign and in my journey as Miss Indian World, as a tribal ambassador and as all indigenous peoples cultural ambassador. Thank you to the Gathering of Nations Powwow Committee and especially Melonie Matthews. Thank you to all my sisters out there for always being bright, beautiful and full of smiles! Thank you to all the friends I have made throughout Indian Country! I plan to continue working hard for Indian country. I pray I served you all well. U'se (thank you).



Taylor attends a rally for President Obama.

