

Yavapai-Apache Nation Chairwoman Jane Russell-Winiecki said, “The Annual Exodus Day Commemoration event is a time for our people to celebrate our survival, strength, and success. When we returned to the Verde Valley we came home to nothing and today we have a beautiful reservation, tribal enterprises, tribal government and services for our people and most importantly we have been able to preserve our history, culture and language. I am honored to join my fellow tribal members in commemorating the sacrifices of our ancestors and to also celebrate with hope and a strong future for our Yavapai and Apache people.”

For more information regarding the Annual Exodus Day Commemoration Event you may contact the Executive Office at (928) 567-1021 or email: tlewis@yan-tribe.org or visit www.yavapai-apache.org.

History of the 1875 Removal - 1900 Return

On February 25, 1875, the Yavapai and Apache people began a 180-mile winter march to San Carlos, where they were held in a concentration camp as political prisoners for 25 years.

Around 1900, the United States Army allowed passes to the people to leave the reservation without the threat of death. The incarcerated people began the return to their homelands only to find that they were homeless. Settlers had laid claim to the land and defended their properties with threats of death. Groups of Yavapai and Apache were chased off homesteads that their ancestors had lived on for centuries. Since both tribes and their families had to survive, they began to congregate in areas of job availability. Concentrations of Yavapai and Apache were prominent in Clarkdale, Cottonwood, Jerome, Beaver Creek and Camp Verde.

Today, members of the Yavapai-Apache Nation are descendants of the formerly incarcerated Yavapai and Tonto Apache peoples. The Yavapai-Apache Nation proudly owns and operates Cliff Castle Casino-Hotel, Yavapai-Apache Sand & Rock, The Market Place, Chevron and Distant Drums RV Resort.

The Yavapai-Apache Nation is a self-governed Indian Nation that has called the Verde Valley home for more than 150 years, and whose ancestors in the area date back several centuries.