
WASHINGTON, DC – January 6, 2021

Sister Cities International (SCI) is honored to announce that Governor Bill Anoatubby of the Chickasaw Nation will receive the Distinguished Leadership Award at the SCI 2021 Presidential Inaugural Celebration.

Each year, SCI presents the Distinguished Leadership Award to extraordinary companies and individuals who, through their efforts and accomplishments, have made significant contributions to society through the communities they serve.

“The Distinguished Leadership Award is given only to those who make profound impacts on their communities and work diligently to continue to do so,” said Leroy Allala, President and CEO of Sister Cities International. “Governor Anoatubby’s dedication to his community and the Citizen Diplomacy movement has shown that he is unquestionably a distinguished and outstanding global leader.”

“Citizen diplomats embody SCI’s principles of mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation, and Governor Anoatubby ensures that he reflects all of these values in his day-to-day life. He treats everyone with respect and as an equal, regardless of their respective social, economic, or political statuses,” said Mary Blankenship Pointer, President of Sister Cities Oklahoma City.

Governor Anoatubby has served as Governor of the Chickasaw Nation since 1987 and has been active in tribal government since 1975. His previous positions include director of tribal health services, director of finance, special assistant to the governor, controller, and the tribe’s first lieutenant governor. Through his leadership, the Chickasaw nation achieved its goals of economic development and self-sufficiency for the Chickasaw Nation and its people. The Chickasaw Nation places a strong emphasis on preserving and sharing its heritage, history, language and culture. This commitment can be seen in the various artistically and culturally centered programs, language, services and the world-renowned Chickasaw Cultural Center.

Governor Anoatubby holds an accounting degree from East Central University, a business degree from Murray State College and has received honorary doctorate degrees from four universities across Oklahoma. He also sits on numerous local and national boards. He has received dozens of awards including being named an Oklahoma Creativity Ambassador, has been inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Hall of Fame, as well as the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame. In addition, he has been named the minority advocate of the year from the U.S. Small Business Administration among many other awards and honors.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded as a Presidential Initiative by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for 350 member communities with over 1,800 partnerships in more than 137 countries on six continents around the world. The Sister City network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomat volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the organizations’ mission of creating world peace and understanding through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, business and trade, and community development.