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**FORT McDOWELL YAVAPAI NATION PRESIDENT BERNADINE BURNETTE HONORED AS  
“WOMAN WARRIOR” BY NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING ASSOCIATION**

*Lauded with six of her peers from across the country, Burnette will be recognized for her excellence in tribal leadership and commitment to all of Indian Country*

**FORT McDOWELL , Ariz. – April 5, 2019** – Earlier this week, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation President Bernadine Burnette was honored as a “Woman Warrior” by the National Indian Gaming Association during their annual tradeshow and convention at the San Diego Convention Center. She joined six other outstanding female leaders from tribes across the nation – and was the only honoree from Arizona.

Considered as the sacred givers of life in Native culture, women play powerful roles not only in leadership but in life and the heart of their traditional communities.

“Our women are our strength and our resilience and ensure our future,” commented Ernie Stevens, Jr., National Indian Gaming Association chairman. “These great Women leaders have without a doubt been strong leaders for not only the tribal communities they represent, but are the greatest example of leaders who have dedicated their lives to the advancement of tribal government gaming and economic diversification, serving as example for all of Indian country.”

Elected president of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation in 2016, Burnette previously served for more than two decades as a Tribal Council Member, holding prior positions of Secretary and Vice President. She has also acted as Vice President of the Arizona Indian Gaming Association and Secretary of the National Indian Gaming Association, with current and past memberships in the National Congress of American Indians, National Indian Education Association, and National Tribal Environmental Council.

Honored as “Woman of the Year” by former Arizona Governor Jane Hull and recognized by the *Arizona Republic* for her leadership as one of then-only seven female Native American tribal presidents, Burnette was also distinguished as “Indian Gaming Advocate of the Year” by the National Indian Gaming Association in 2012 for her work to preserve gaming rights.

**About the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation**

The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation is a 900-member Native American tribe that calls Central Arizona’s upper Sonoran Desert home. Located to the northeast of Phoenix within Maricopa County, Arizona, the 40-square mile reservation is a small part of the ancestral territory of the once nomadic Yavapai people, who hunted and gathered food in a vast area of Arizona’s desert lowlands and mountainous Mogollon Rim country.

The tribe currently operates a variety of successful enterprises including the We-Ko-Pa Resort & Conference Center, We-Ko-Pa Golf Club, Poco Diablo Resort, Fort McDowell Adventures, Eagle View RV Resort and Fort McDowell Casino, that will be unveiling a new, state-of-the-art gaming facility in 2020.

## CONTACT

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Burnette with NIGA chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr.



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