



CAROLE AYERS

A retired nurse of 35 years, a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, a Tribal and community volunteer and a highly respected elder of the Tribe, Carole Ayers is a registered Choctaw artist who spends her retirement expressing herself through her paintings.

Carole's art business began when her husband, Don – who recently passed away – inquired as to how she thought she might spend her retirement. Carole's answer: she wanted to study her heritage, and she wanted to paint. Don supported Carole wholeheartedly, accompanying and assisting her in many of her endeavors with the Tribe. Their enduring love for each other is sweetly visible to all who have met them, and after more than 60 years by each other's sides, remains so even after his passing.

In an interview, Carole said she “sees her art less as a business and more as sharing her culture and preserving it for future generations,” adding she hopes “people get a sense of the history of our culture, think about where they are today and what they want to preserve of their past and their ancestors.”

In addition to serving as a past President of the District #9 Choctaw Nation Seniors – for which she still volunteers to this day – Carole has also spent countless hours teaching the senior women to sew their own regalia and has even won the “Outstanding Elder” award. Carole currently serves in the capacity of Coordinator for the planning of the group's cultural activities.

One of Carole's favorite ways to volunteer is by working with the Choctaw Nation's Head Start children. She volunteers on a regular basis in the classroom and has done so for several years, teaching children the Choctaw culture, language and heritage.

Most recently, Carole donated the use of some of her original images to be reproduced on canvas for display at Choctaw Headquarters. Carole currently enjoys spending her retirement continuing to paint.

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