

EMBLEM DESIGNER

LEROY WHITE

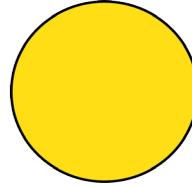
1926 - 2009

Leroy was born and raised in Little Axe, Oklahoma on the Indian allotment forced upon his family in 1886. From birth, Shawnee language and tradition were part of his daily life. He was selected to succeed his uncle, Webster Little Jim, in 1976 as the traditional chief of the Big Jim band of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

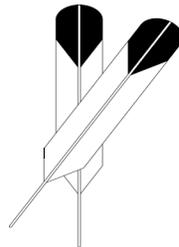
He was a man with many interests, including painting. In 1974, with the encouragement of his family, Leroy, a talented but modest artist, entered the contest sponsored by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe for the design of a tribal logo.

In constructing his design he made a point to include features that would have the most meaning to the Absentee Shawnee people. Leroy won the contest and his design is presently recognized as the official emblem of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

ABOUT THE EMBLEM



The moon in the background represents one of God's many creations.



The two feathers symbolize two significant leaders of the Shawnee people, Tecumseh and his brother, Tenskwatawa, the Prophet.



The facial profile represents Tecumseh, a Shawnee leader revered for his strength of character and military accomplishments. Much of his adult life was dedicated to uniting all of the eastern tribes into a vast Indian confederacy for the purpose of asserting and defending their right to live in their native lands under their own laws and leaders. His dream of confederacy was not realized but unto his death his spirit was not broken.



The two stars denote the rank of Brigadier General held by Tecumseh in the British Army. He died in action at the Battle of Thames in 1813. Though some historical accounts question he was deserving of this status. Do your own research and see what you discover.

LI SI WI NWI

The English translation is "Among the Shawnee"