

October 2009

**OLYMPIC RECORD HOLDER BILLY MILLS TO BE
INDUCTED INTO TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY'S
'CIRCLE OF HONOR'**

"Look at Mills! Look at Mills!"

This exclamation by the announcer of the 1964 Olympics was a call to the world to never forget the perseverance of the American Indian spirit.

In one of sport's greatest upsets, Billy Mills, an Oglala Lakota (Sioux), captured the 1964 Olympic gold medal in the 10,000-meter race in heroic fashion. He remains the only American to ever win a gold medal in the 10,000 meters.

Tulsa City-County Library's American Indian Resource Center will induct Mills into the Circle of Honor during a special presentation March 6, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. at Central Library, Fourth Street and Denver Avenue.

Sponsored by the Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation, Tulsa World, American Indian Resource Center and Tulsa Library Trust, the award consists of a \$5,000 honorarium and a medallion featuring the American Indian Resource Center's turtle logo.

The Circle of Honor ceremony honors an American Indian for his or her achievements by acknowledging the inductee's contributions that have enriched others' lives and by celebrating the inductee's action in the face of adversity, commitment to the preservation of American Indian culture and legacy for future generations.

Mills has used his notoriety from his Olympic heroics to launch the successful American Indian youth program "Running Strong for American Youth," which he formed with friend Eugene Krizek. He is the national spokesperson for the organization that helps improve self-esteem, cultural pride and the future for American Indian youth. He has helped raise more than \$212 million to help communities with self-sufficiency programs, youth activities and cultural identity projects.

Mills is also the best-selling author of "Wokini: A Lakota Journey to Happiness and Understanding," which he co-wrote with Nicholas Sparks. In its eighth printing, the book uses traditional Indian legends to impart life lessons about gaining and keeping happiness. In 2005, he teamed with Sparks again to write "Lessons of a Lakota: A Young Man's Journey to Happiness and Self-Understanding." This fictional tale takes a look at how a man's life changes after the death of his sister and a gift from his father.

The Circle of Honor alternates annually with the American Indian Festival of Words Author Award. The late Charles Chibitty, Wilma Mankiller and Neal McCaleb were previously inducted in the Circle of Honor.

Quotes From TCCL's American Indian Resource Center:

Louis Gray, coordinator of the Primary Residential Treatment Center for the Osage Nation. "He has been a hero of the highest order in Indian Country and time has only made his achievement richer. No other Native American has achieved more and shared it in a more positive way than Billy Mills. His Olympic gold medal win continues to kick open doors for Indian Country every time Billy Mills comes to town."

Jean Froman, Indian Pupil Education coordinator, Tulsa Public Schools. "Billy Mills' accomplishments in the sports arena and the business sector are outstanding. It is an honor to have a Native American of this caliber represent our population. He is an excellent role model to our youth and his motivational presentations are touching with his determination to overcome adversity."

For more information on the Circle of Honor ceremony, call the AskUs Hotline, 596-7977, or visit the library's Web site, www.tulsalibrary.org.

For more information about the American Indian Resource Center, please [visit our Web site](http://www.tulsalibrary.org).

Teresa Washington Runnels * American Indian Resource Center Coordinator
Central Library * 400 Civic Center □ Tulsa, OK 74103 * 918-596-7398
trunnel@tulsalibrary.org

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Upcoming Programs:

Gates Millennium Scholarship Workshop

Saturday, Oct. 17 • 10 a.m.-noon

For teens

Preregistration is required. Class size is limited. Call 669-6055 to register.

Maxwell Park Library • 1313 N. Canton

Sponsored by the Charles W. and Pauline K. Flint Foundation

FAFSA Workshop

Saturday Nov. 7 • 10-11:30 a.m.

For teens

Preregistration is required. Class size is limited. Call 669-6055 to register.

Maxwell Park Library • 1313 N. Canton

Sponsored by the Charles W. and Pauline K. Flint Foundation

Soil Painting

Saturday, Nov. 14 • 2-3 p.m.

For ages 9-12

Judy Z. Kishner Library, 10150 N. Cincinnati Ave. E.,

Sperry

Discover the Native Culture of Your Community

Exhibit on Cherokee and Osage history.

Nov. 16-21

Judy Z. Kishner Library, 10150 N. Cincinnati Ave. E.,

Sperry

**Beginning Mvskoke (Creek) Language Class
September thru November**

John Skeeter will teach the basics of the Mvskoke (Creek) language.

****Sept. 2–Nov 21** Date Change**

Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.

Saturdays, 3-5 p.m.

Glenpool Library, 730 E. 141st St., 746-5190

Cherokee Language Class - Ongoing

Join Owen Scott, Tulsa Cherokee

Community Organization, as he teaches the Cherokee Language.

Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St., 591-4366

Osage Language Class – August thru May

Join the Osage Nation Language Department as they teach the Osage language.

Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

Skiatook Library, 316 E. Rogers, 596-2830

Ponca Language Class - Ongoing

Join Curtis Lieb and Caesar Williams as they teach the Ponca language.

Thursdays, 6 p.m.

Maxwell Park Library, 1313 N. Canton, 669-6055

2010 Circle of Honor Ceremony

Honoree: Billy Mills

Saturday, March 6, 2010, at 10:30 a.m.

Central Library, second floor