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**Code Talkers Visit Tribe**

CHOCTAW, Miss. – Three members of the renowned Navajo Code Talkers, Samuel Tso, Bill Toledo, and Albert Smith, along with Tso's wife and daughter, Ann and Yvonne Tso, visited the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians on Friday, May 21, 2010. They toured the Reservation, visited with officials at the Office of Economic Development, Cultural Preservation Program, and the Elderly Activity Center.

The Navajo Code Talkers was a group of young Navajo men recruited by Phillip Johnston to help the U.S. military in the fight against enemy forces in the Pacific theater during World War II. Because of the complexity of the Navajo language, Japanese intelligence was unable to break the code. The use of this code saved many lives and was pivotal in drawing the Pacific conflict to a close.

The visitors enjoyed their visit and were very impressed with the achievements of the Tribe.

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*The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, under the esteemed leadership of Miko Beasley Denson, has an enrolled membership of over 10,000 and is the only federally recognized tribe in the State of Mississippi. Headquartered in the Pearl River community, near Philadelphia, Mississippi, the Tribe has emerged as a leader in economic development. The Tribe provides a range of governmental services for its members including schools, a hospital, medical clinics, police and fire protection, courts, an elderly center, among many others.*