



Tribal Contact:

Wilma Simpson
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
PH (601) 650-1613
FAX (601) 650-3684
E-mail: Wilma.simpson@choctaw.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 8, 2009

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Holds Tree Lighting Ceremony

CHOCTAW, Miss. – On Thursday, December 3, 2009, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians held its Third Annual “Lighting of the Christmas Tree” ceremony at the Tribal headquarters in the Pearl River Community. The ceremony included Christmas carols sung in English and Choctaw by Deidre Tubby, Chahta Alla Youth Council, and Choctaw Missionary Baptist Church. Miko Beasley Denson made a few remarks and expressed his wishes for everyone to enjoy the holidays. After his remarks, he and First Lady Lena Denson lit up the tree. Santa Claus greeted the children and took pictures with them. The children were given gifts of fireworks, coloring books, and crayons from Miko Denson. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the audience was treated to a food sampling by Bumpers of Philadelphia.

#####

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, under the esteemed leadership of Miko Beasley Denson, has an enrolled membership of almost 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.