



TSTA 145th House of Delegates Opening Ceremony April 19, 2024 - 2:30 pm

Welcome

Ovidia Molina, TSTA President

Special Guest

Colin Allred, U.S. Representative (D-TX 32nd District)

Mariachis

South Grand Prairie High School Mariachis

Mariachi Azul from Grand Prairie High School

Commencement of Opening Ceremony

Ovidia Molina, TSTA President

Presentation of Colors

Duncanville ROTC - Color Guard

National Anthem

Peggy Rodgers-Pickron, NEA-Dallas

Pledge of Allegiance

Barbara Davis-Staley, TSTA-R President

Welcome to Frisco

Mayor Jeff Cheney

Land Acknowledgement + Presentation

Peggy Larney, Founder of American Indian Heritage Day in Texas

Labor Recognition + Presentation

Robert Edison, Curator of Education for African American Museum of Dallas

Thought of the Day & Moment of Silence

Zachary Sheriff, TSTA-AE Vice President

Host Committee Presentation

Award Ceremony

Closing

Colin Allred



Born and raised in North Texas by a single mom who was a Dallas public school teacher, Congressman Colin Allred earned a full-ride football scholarship to Baylor University. He deferred his acceptance to law school to play in the NFL where he was a linebacker for five seasons before sustaining a career-ending injury that opened the door for him to fulfill his other dream -- becoming a civil rights attorney.

After serving in President Obama's administration, Allred moved home to Dallas to run for Congress where he defeated an entrenched Republican incumbent and now represents Texas' 32nd District, where he and his wife are raising their two children. Allred's work in Congress is guided by his dedication to helping hardworking families gain the same opportunities he had to chase his version of the American dream.

Peggy Larney



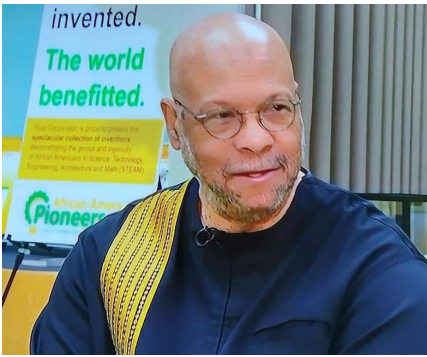
Peggy Larney is a full-blood American Indian and a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She is a graduate of the Haskell Institute of Lawrence, Kansas, and the University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas.

Ms. Larney is a retired Dallas ISD educator. She oversaw the American Indian Education Program. She led efforts to address the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native students (PK-12). The program is the district's principle vehicle for addressing the needs of American Indian students and their families. A few accomplishments during her tenure included eliminating ten schools with American

Indian names and mascots, increasing the student retention rate, sponsoring 15 years of all-volunteer All-Indian Student Basketball Tournament, increasing American Indian students to higher education, and providing cultural education to students, parents, and community.

The last Friday in September is American Indian Heritage Day—founded by Mrs. Larney-- in recognition of the historic, cultural, and social contributions of American Indian communities and leaders have made to this state. American Indian Heritage Day shall be regularly observed by appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs in the business, public schools, and other places to honor American Indians in this state and to celebrate the rich traditional and contemporary American Indian culture.

Ms. Peggy Larney is a well-known cultural educator as well as an advocator for cultural heritage and culture. Look for her book, "Indian Relocation Act of 1956, Building of American Indian Community in Dallas, Texas."



Robert Edison

My career has consisted of working in the field of public education and museum education. In the field of public education, I have taught both required and elective courses. I have a lifetime teaching certificate for secondary social studies from the State of Texas. As director of social studies, I established the Center for Cultural Understanding and conducted professional development on cultural competency. I also served as an advisor for the Dallas ISD Teen School Board, helping members to be proactive on their campuses in dealing with race and diversity issues.

I retired as the Director of Social Studies for the Dallas Independent School District on June 1, 2017. I served as Distinguished Visiting Professor of American Studies on Race and Ethnicity at Oklahoma Christian University, teaching Introduction to African American Studies 2019-2020 and presently I teach African American History and American History at Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas. In 2021 I became the Curator of Education for the African American Museum in Dallas.

Mayor Jeff Cheney



Native Texan Jeff Cheney was elected Mayor of Frisco, Texas, in May 2017 and again in November 2020. Previously, he served on Frisco City Council from 2007 to 2016. Since Mayor Cheney has taken office, Frisco has been recognized as: #1 Safest City in America (SmartAsset, 2022 and again in 2023); #1 Fastest Growing City in the U.S. over the last decade (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020); #1 Most Recession-Resistant City (SmartAsset, 2020); #1 City for Highest Job Growth (WalletHub, 2019); and #1 Best Place to Live in America (Money Magazine, 2018).

Mayor Cheney and the Frisco City Council are making progress on public-private partnerships including Omni PGA Frisco Resort, Fields, University of North Texas-Frisco Campus, and the Performing Arts Center at Hall Park. Mayor Cheney and the council are also committed to making progress on city projects including downtown redevelopment, the 'new' Frisco Public Library, and Grand Park.

Mayor Cheney attended the University of Texas-Austin where he was recognized with Highest Honors for his Bachelors and Masters in Accounting. Professionally, Mayor Cheney has earned the distinctions of Certified Public Accountant and Registered Financial Advisor.

Mayor Cheney and his wife, Dana, co-founded The Cheney Group, a top-rated residential realty firm in Frisco, under the umbrella of Monument Realty. The Cheney Group was recognized as the Frisco Small Business of the Year in 2015 and Frisco Employer of the Year in 2021. The Cheneyes also own Ignyte Yoga Studio in Frisco.

Jeff and Dana Cheney were married in 2001 and have been blessed with three children: Zach, Mason, and Kaytlin. Mayor Cheney enjoys living in Sports City USA, the home of several professional sports teams. He's an avid golfer, weekend warrior and loves watching his kids play sports, too.

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING HOST COMMITTEE OF UNION SISTERS!

Angela Davis, NEA-Dallas · Barbara Davis-Staley, TSTA-Retired
Winifred Jackson, Longview Educators Association

