

Thomas Wabnum

Council Member for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Bio

My name is Thomas M. Wabnum, Council Member for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. My reservation was destroyed by the Dawes Allotment Act. While under federal care, our money was mismanaged, forcing us into selling our lands and we were almost terminated as a Tribe in 1954. I lived in a Dawes allotment house and have numerous interests in several allotments but cannot build a home on any. I attended Indian boarding school, attended Haskell Indian Nations University, was a Tribal Council Treasurer, and worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Office of Special Trustee (OST). I have an Individual Indian Monies account, and I am also a Vietnam Veteran. During my employment with the BIA and OST, I helped create the budgets for those agencies.