

Witness Biography

Joseph P. Rupnick
Tribal Council Chairman
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick serves as the Tribal Council Chairman of the elected seven-member governing body of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. The Tribal Council is tasked with protecting the health, peace, morals, education, and welfare of the Nation. This is accomplished through the primary duties of enacting laws and policies and serving as the decision-making authority on budgets and investments.

In addition to this role, Chairman Rupnick serves as an ex-officio member for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Entertainment Corporation Board of Directors, a representative for the Four Tribes of Kansas and as Treasurer for the Southern Plains Healthcare Board. Chairman Rupnick is also the Primary Delegate for the Nation in the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). He has been an active member of We-Ta-Se American Legion Post 410 for 25 years and is currently serving as Sergeant of Arms. He is also a lifetime member in both the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disable American Veterans organizations.

Prior to his position on Tribal Council, Chairman Rupnick served the United States as a Calvary Scout, reaching the level of Platoon Sergeant of a Calvary Troop. Chairman Rupnick was honorably discharged from the Army after serving 13 years on active duty. He most recently worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for 9 years, completing his tenure with the VA as the Senior Management Analyst for the Western Orbit of the Heartland Network.

Chairman Rupnick graduated from Intermountain Intertribal Indian School in Brigham City, Utah and later earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business administration from Baker University. He earned a concentration in Health Care Administration from Ottawa University.

Chairman Rupnick and his wife of thirty-five years, LeAnne, currently reside on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Reservation. They have two adult children.