

Elder James G. Sappier

James is an enrolled member of the Penobscot Nation in Maine. He has held many leadership positions with the Tribe, including Governor and Lt. Governor in the 1980's and 90's. Chief Executive Officer in the 1980's and 90's and from 2004 to 2006; Administrator in the 1980's; Chief from 2004 to 2006; President and Chair of the National Tribal Environmental Council in 2005 and 2006; and he currently serves as a Tribal Council member.

Jim is actively involved with the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) and served as Executive Director in 1993 and 1994. Additionally, Jim served as Co-Chair of the National Congress of American Indians Committee of Natural Resources, Trust, Lands, Energy, Environment, Agriculture and Land Use in 2004, as Representative for the Maine House of Representatives from 1982 to 1984 and as a United States Delegate to the State Department Organization of American States Declaration on Indigenous Peoples Rights from 2001 to 2003.

Elder Sappier retired from the Environmental Protection Agency and during his distinguished service, he served as the Regional Indian Program Manager from 1995 to 2000 and during 2002 to 2004. He also served as the Special Emphasis Program Manager from 1995 – 2000 and again from 2003 to 2004.

Jim has been married to his wife Bonnie for over 50 years and they have two children, Jim and Tricia. They have 5 grandchildren. Jim's hobbies include playing chess, reading, fishing, hunting, golf and writing.