

Joseph "Joe" T. Joaquin

Joseph "Joe" T. Joaquin, Cultural Resource Specialist, Cultural Affairs Office, Tohono O'Odham Nation, Sells, Arizona.

Joe Joaquin is a member of the Tohono O'Odham Nation (Nation). He was born and raised in Big Fields Community in the Sells District of the Tohono O'Odham Nation.



Joe attended the University of California in Los Angeles where he received his Bachelors of Education in 1970.

For 6 years, Joe has worked for the Tohono O'Odham Nation, Cultural Affairs Office, as the Cultural Resource Specialist. He was very influential in getting the Cultural Affairs Office established, so that the Nation could be proactive in the preservation and nurturing of their cultural identity. As a Cultural Resource Specialist, Joe secures the claims on ancestral remains found during off-reservation construction, and ensures their respectful return to the Nation.

Joe also attends many group or organizational meetings and serves as an advisor to make sure that the voice of his Nation is heard. He belongs to many organizations; such as the Four Southern Tribes, the Intertribal Council of Arizona, the Southwest Strategy, the International Sonoran Desert Alliance, the Smithsonian Institute, the Historical Commission, and the Arizona State Museum Advisory Group.

He currently serves as a Commissioner for the National Congress of American Indians. He was also a former Sells Legislator (Tohono O'Odham) and Cultural Preservation Chair.

Joe, a Korean/Vietnam Marine veteran, can be seen in his free time in his Honor Guard uniform standing beside his brothers and friends as they are laid to rest.