

DISTINGUISHED FAMILY, DESCENDANTS, AND RELATIVES OF CHIEF QUANAH PARKER AND CYNTHIA ANN; OFFICIALS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COMANCHE COUNTY, AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES; MEMBERS OF THE COUNCILS AND TRIBES OF THIS AREA; REPRESENTATIVES OF PARKER COUNTY, AND QUANAH, TEXAS, AND THE QUANAH RAILROAD; MEMBERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF OKLAHOMA AND COMANCHE COUNTY; BOY SCOUTS OF CACHE, FORT SILL, THE HUNTING HORSE DISTRICT, AND DALLAS, TEXAS; FRIENDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THIS IS A NOTABLE GATHERING HERE TODAY. THE RESPONSE TO OUR INVITATION TO ATTEND THE REBURIAL SERVICE AT FORT SILL OF CHIEF QUANAH PARKER AND HIS MOTHER, CYNTHIA ANN, HAS BEEN OVERWHELMING, AND IS A GREATER TRIBUTE TO THE LAST GREAT CHIEF OF THE COMANCHES THAN ANY WORDS THAT I CAN SAY.

A NUMBER OF EMINENT OFFICIALS OF THIS STATE ARE UNABLE TO BE WITH US BECAUSE OF OTHER BINDING COMMITMENTS. GOVERNOR GARY HAS ASKED ME TO EXPRESS HIS PROFOUND REGRET AT BEING UNABLE TO ATTEND. SENATOR KERR AND SENATOR MONRONEY AND THE ABLE REPRESENTATIVES FROM OKLAHOMA IN CONGRESS WERE UNABLE TO COME BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT HEAVY LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE IN WASHINGTON. THEY ALSO HAVE ASKED ME TO EXPRESS THEIR REGRETS TO YOU. SIMILARLY, THERE ARE MANY CLOSE FRIENDS OF THE RENOWNED CHIEF AND OF THE PARKER FAMILY THAT COULD NOT BE HERE TODAY. AMONG THEM IS MR. CHARLES H. SOMMER OF ST. LOUIS, RETIRED PRESIDENT OF THE QUANAH, ACME & PACIFIC