

1 First Lady, Deputy Chief Warner, Mrs. Warner,
2 Mr. Speaker, members of the Council, Mr. Chief
3 Justice, members of the judiciary, members of
4 the cabinet, Reverend Cotton, Pastor Petit,
5 honored guests, ladies and gentlemen.

6 We gather as a change in season draws near.

7 It is my honor and privilege to report to the
8 Cherokee people on the state of our great
9 nation for the eighth and final time.

10 I can report to you with confidence that the
11 state of our nation is strong.

12 Though I hope that I have become a better
13 Chief with the passage of time, some things
14 remain the same as the day I took the oath of
15 office in 2019.

16 I am in this office with the support of countless
17 individuals, the most important of who are my
18 family members.

1 Our First Lady, as she has since the day we met
2 as teenagers, has made me a better person and
3 a more thoughtful leader. She helps ready me
4 each day to lead this nation and to become a
5 better Chief along the way.

6 Our children- Triston and Jasmine- and our
7 grandchildren - remain our source of pride and
8 a reminder that our work today is for the next
9 generation. Our children are older than when I
10 took office. The First Lady and I, of course, are
11 still the same age.

12 My father's entry into politics and public service
13 31 years ago helped pave the way for my own.
14 Chuck Hoskin served 28 consecutive years in
15 elected office and is the greatest public servant
16 I have ever known.

17 I hope I have made my family proud. Among
18 them are sisters, cousins, aunts, uncles and in-

1 laws. I can feel the spirit of my late mother with
2 us today and I hope that she is proud.

3 Everyone I have served alongside has shaped
4 me.

5 One man holds a unique stature and has guided
6 me in every consequential decision over the last
7 seven years. That man is Deputy Chief Bryan
8 Warner.

9 Deputy Chief Warner and I came into office
10 finding our nation with a solid foundation. We
11 have worked as a team, with the Council and
12 with scores of other leaders to build on that
13 foundation.

14 And build we have.

15 We have built up our health care system. Since
16 2019 we have invested over \$1 billion in that
17 effort.

1 We expanded access to primary care by 60%.

2 We expanded access to behavioral health by
3 350%.

4 Our health workforce has grown by 55% and we
5 have more doctors and nurses employed today
6 than any time in Cherokee Nation history.

7 Our health workforce provides over 3 million
8 patient services per year, a volume not seen
9 anywhere in Indian Country. The economic
10 impact of our health system exceeds \$2 billion
11 per year and supports over 11,000 jobs.

12 We are building towards that world class
13 system of wellness that the Cherokee people
14 deserve.

15 Our new \$85 million Salina outpatient facility
16 expanded services, created new jobs and has a
17 wellness center on site.

1 We just began construction on the new \$400
2 million Claremore health campus, which will
3 also have a wellness center.

4 As a child I remember going to Claremore with
5 my grandfather and my father when it was a
6 federal IHS facility. My late grandfather would
7 be so proud that under the Hoskin / Warner
8 administration we put that facility into the
9 hands of the Cherokee people where it belongs.

10 We just opened the doors on our \$470 million
11 Hastings hospital here in Tahlequah, doubling
12 our in-patient capacity and expanding services.

13 Before Deputy Chief Warner and I leave office,
14 we will have built an in-patient substance use
15 treatment center and two outpatient recovery
16 centers.

17 Those treatment centers are just a part of the
18 \$100 million plan to bring healing to those

1 struggling with addiction. And let us remind the
2 industries who would harm the Cherokee
3 people that we made the opioid industry pay
4 for every single penny of that \$100 million plan.
5 That is justice.

6 Our healthcare initiatives are more than
7 hospitals and clinics. Our wellness centers,
8 wellness spaces and wellness grants are so
9 powerful.

10 Our new wellness centers have over 25,250
11 members and average over 1,800 visits each
12 day.

13 Deputy Secretary of State Canaan Duncan led a
14 task force that just handed Speaker Kidwell,
15 Deputy Chief Warner and me a strategy report
16 to bring wellness centers within reach of all
17 Cherokees on the reservation. Wado Deputy
18 Secretary Duncan.

1 This past year our \$2 million elder nutrition
2 expansion provided our elders with the best
3 medicine of all: a meal with other elders and
4 staff who love them. We expanded to Dewey,
5 Stilwell and North Tulsa. We made People’s
6 Community organization in Bowlin Springs our
7 first elder nutrition partner program. In the
8 coming year we will expand to Catoosa, Salina
9 and Tahlequah.

10 We should not stop this expansion until a
11 nutrition program is within reach of every
12 Cherokee elder on this reservation.

13 From playgrounds to the Hawiya meat program,
14 to low-income farmers market vouchers, to
15 parks, to emergency housing, to public
16 restrooms and water systems, to grants to
17 communities and non-profits, the Public Health

1 and Wellness Fund Act has so far delivered a
2 wellness dividend of \$142 million.

3 The Public Health and Wellness Fund Act will
4 fuel our investment in wellness year after year
5 as far as the eye can see. That law is a symbol of
6 sustainability and self-reliance. That law
7 enables us to make wellness investments
8 exceeding \$40 million every year without
9 waiting around for a penny from the
10 government of the United States.

11 Since 2019 we have built 730 homes and
12 repaired 3,885. We've built 11 community
13 buildings and expanded or improved 23 others.

14 All of that is because of another landmark piece
15 legislation: the Housing, Jobs and Sustainable
16 Communities Act. That law funds housing and
17 community buildings at \$40 million every three
18 years into perpetuity.

1 We have invested \$190 million in housing since
2 2019.

3 The federal government’s investment in tribal
4 housing is shamefully underfunded. HUD
5 spends about the same today as it did thirty
6 years ago.

7 Our landmark housing act doesn’t use a penny
8 from the federal government. When it comes to
9 housing, we are too ambitious, too restless and
10 the need is too great for us to wait around for
11 the government of the United States to come to
12 the rescue. We must take care of ourselves and
13 that is what the Housing, Jobs and Sustainable
14 Communities Act is all about.

15 Our ancestors understood that education was
16 the key to a bright future. We are following
17 their lead.

1 Higher education annual spending since 2019
2 has gone from \$14 million to \$24 million. At
3 large scholarships alone have risen by 87%. In
4 2019 we funded 4,672 Cherokee students. This
5 year we funded 6,631.

6 We created two endowments at the Cherokee
7 Nation Foundation to fund special health care
8 scholarships forever. It is all part of our 21st
9 Century Cherokee Nation Health Workforce
10 Plan. On top of that, we added \$2 million
11 annually in new health scholarships and grants.

12 Now, more than ever, we need young
13 Cherokees to be the doctors, nurses and
14 healthcare professionals of tomorrow.

15 To all the Cherokee moms and dads out there,
16 isn't this a great feeling: You can encourage
17 your son or daughter to be a doctor or a nurse
18 for their people. You can encourage them to

1 attend the Oklahoma State University College of
2 Osteopathic Medicine or the University of
3 Oklahoma College of Nursing right here in
4 Tahlequah.

5 Across the Cherokee Nation, and at large, we
6 see the fruits of our policies and our
7 investments.

8 Gadugi Corps has over 7,600 volunteers. Gadugi
9 Corps is driven by Shawn Crittenden’s simple
10 but powerful idea of Cherokees helping
11 Cherokees. Our Gadugi Corps volunteers are
12 reinvigorating community service and helping
13 get things done here at home and at-large.

14 We have 89 Community and Cultural Outreach
15 participating organizations across the
16 reservation and across the United States
17 leading wellness initiatives, keeping language
18 and culture alive and keeping hope alive. On

1 top of those 11 community buildings we have
2 built since 2019, we will begin construction on
3 3 more before Deputy Chief Warner and I leave
4 office

5 My fellow Cherokees the work of our CCO
6 organizations is how we ensure this nation is
7 built from the grass roots up, not the top down.

8 In less than a year the Opportunity Zones
9 initiative generated 54 small business loans,
10 totaling \$15.8 million, to Cherokee
11 entrepreneurs willing to invest in communities
12 where poverty has been high for generations.

13 Our administration also removed barriers so
14 that at-large entrepreneurs across the country
15 can get small business loans for the first time in
16 history.

17 Since 2019, we have put \$35.4 million in small
18 business loans into the hands of 299

1 entrepreneurs. That investment did something
2 more powerful than any government program
3 could ever do: it created over 1,353 private
4 sector jobs.

5 When our artist faced tough economic times,
6 the Artist Recovery Act came to the rescue.
7 That law injected \$4 million into our growing
8 community of Cherokee artists. The Artist
9 Recovery Act helped perpetuate Cherokee
10 creativity through over 3,800 hours of
11 community art classes. Under the ARA we also
12 purchased more than 600 pieces of Cherokee
13 art from over 100 artists, owned forever in the
14 name of the Cherokee people.

15 Across the country, we are feeding the hunger
16 that our people have for language, culture and
17 history as we all continue our journey to

1 reclaim our story and share it with our families,
2 our friends and our neighbors.

3 That is why I am so proud of the Cherokee
4 Heritage Center Act of 2020. Under that law we
5 finally own that special place, the site of our
6 first female seminary where columns of that
7 structure still stand. In 2028, we will celebrate
8 the grand opening of our new \$50 million
9 Heritage Center.

10 This administration has been good stewards of
11 our land, air and water under our Natural
12 Resources Department.

13 We are engaging the help of our citizens to
14 implement the Cherokee National Trails Act and
15 our Cemetery Preservation Act.

16 The Cherokee Nation Energy and Sustainability
17 Act of 2026 will lower our carbon footprint and

1 protect our natural environment for
2 generations to come.

3 The Cherokee Nation Parks and Wildlands Act
4 and our Historic Registry Act protects public
5 spaces and historic sites for preservation and
6 recreation.

7 We opened the beautiful Chief Wilma Mankiller
8 Park.

9 My fellow Cherokees I am pleased to report
10 that since 2019 we have placed over 7,600
11 acres of our reservation into protected status.

12 In the final analysis, what matters most is that
13 we stay connected to our culture. If at the end
14 of this century we have lost what it means to be
15 Cherokee, there is not a Chief who can write a
16 big enough check to get it back.

17 That's why the \$182 million we have invested
18 under our Durbin Feeling Language

1 Preservation Act is perhaps the best investment
2 the Hoskin / Warner Administration has made.

3 Our language program extends a hand to
4 Cherokees speakers from the cradle to their
5 twilight years. Our fluent speakers keep
6 inspiring a new generation of speakers.

7 We've created 123 high level second language
8 speakers through our master / apprentice
9 language program. We increased the annual
10 capacity of that program by 500% since 2019.

11 Our Speaker Services program provided special
12 housing and other assistance to over 1,000 first-
13 language fluent speakers. We spread our
14 language far and wide with the help of IT and
15 media partners. We provided over 200,000
16 hours of language lessons to Cherokees near
17 and far.

1 My fellow Cherokees, the Creator did not hand
2 our ancestors our precious language only for us
3 to fail to keep it. We are not content to simply
4 save our language. We are on a mission to
5 revitalize our language in our lifetime and we
6 mean to succeed.

7 None of these efforts matter if we do not
8 protect our sovereignty. I am proud of our
9 record.

10 We have proven that we will assert and defend
11 Cherokee Nation sovereignty in the courts and
12 in the Congress, before legislatures and
13 governors and in any forum where our
14 sovereignty falls under attack.

15 We have made the case for treaty rights, from
16 hunting and fishing to seating our Delegate to
17 Congress.

18 We have made sovereignty an action word.

1 We have made self-governance our central
2 mission.

3 We have met the moment that the post *McGirt*-
4 era demands, creating a system of public safety,
5 law enforcement and justice that protects the
6 innocent, demands accountability and provides
7 a path to restoration.

8 We believe in democracy. Without it,
9 sovereignty is hollow. At a moment when
10 democracy feels fragile, we have proven that
11 Cherokee Nation- one of the world's oldest
12 democracies- is still based on the idea that a
13 free people deserve a government of the
14 people, by the people and for the people.

15 We have also proven, in case it was ever in
16 doubt, one unshakeable and stubborn fact,
17 rooted in law and embedded in history: There is
18 only one Cherokee Nation that has ever existed.

1 That is our Cherokee Nation, and this nation is
2 unbroken.

3 I am also proud that this administration stands
4 for something that is both a legal imperative
5 and a moral imperative. On this issue we have
6 stood strong. For this administration our
7 position is an article of faith and one that fulfills
8 the promise of our ancestors: Cherokee Nation
9 citizens of freedmen descent are equal citizens
10 under the law. Period.

11 In fact, everyone in our great big Cherokee
12 society deserves respect and we all have a stake
13 in each other's well-being. That is the very
14 essence of what we call Cherokee goodness.

15 The foundation of Cherokee goodness is simple:
16 we are all equal and we all deserve to be seen
17 and heard. Each of us deserves to be treated
18 with dignity regardless of our race, regardless of

1 our faith, regardless of our gender, regardless of
2 who we see when we look in the mirror and
3 regardless of who we choose to love.

4 And let's say something to the leaders of the
5 State of Oklahoma. Oklahoma is a government
6 with which we are inextricably linked: past,
7 present and future.

8 But, let us say it one more time so they can
9 hear it.

10 Let's make sure the sound carries all the way
11 down to the Governor's mansion. Let's make
12 sure it echoes through the marble walls of the
13 State Capitol. Let's say it loud enough so that it
14 even shakes that podium in the chamber of the
15 Oklahoma House of Representatives.

16 Cherokee Nation is the best friend the State of
17 Oklahoma ever had. We just need to be treated
18 with respect.

1 My fellow Cherokees, every journey has a
2 beginning. Every journey has an end.

3 In 343 days, my journey as your Principal Chief
4 will come to an end.

5 At this late hour I am mindful of where Deputy
6 Chief Warner and I are on this journey.

7 With the time we have left, we have a few ideas
8 we would like to work on.

9 After we build those drug addiction recovery
10 centers, let's keep going. Let's begin the first
11 transitional living homes for those who are in
12 recovery and who are ready to reunite with
13 family, school and work.

14 Tomorrow, the Housing, Jobs and Sustainable
15 Communities Act turns seven years old. That
16 law says we will spend 40 million of our own
17 dollars, on top of federal housing funds, every
18 three years into perpetuity. Let's amend that

1 law to make sure it keeps up with inflation,
2 because standing still is falling behind and on
3 housing we cannot afford to fall behind.

4 While we're at it, let's break ground on new
5 homes and low-income apartments. We've got
6 work to do this year in places like Tulsa, Keys,
7 Kenwood, South Coffeyville and Sally Bull
8 Hollow and we've got work to do in many more
9 communities in the years to come.

10 The best way to empower moms and dads to
11 enter the workforce is to make childcare more
12 affordable. In fact, one of the surest ways
13 anywhere on the planet to combat poverty is to
14 empower women with freedom of choice,
15 including the ability to choose to work.

16 We have already made the largest childcare
17 investment in Cherokee Nation history. Quality
18 childcare is near and dear to the heart of our

1 First Lady. So, let's pursue three ideas to go
2 further.

3 First, let's build new Child Development
4 Centers. Let's lay out a strategy to build more
5 over the next decade and let's start this year in
6 Tahlequah and Vinita.

7 Second, let's invest over \$1 million annually to
8 provide grants to Cherokee citizens for child
9 care start ups, expansions or improvements
10 within the reservation.

11 Third, let's take up Councilor Danny Callison's
12 idea. Let's help working families by expanding
13 the hours of our Head Start centers.

14 Let us also forge ahead on education and job
15 training.

16 The Career Readiness Act of 2019 increased
17 funding and made reforms in our Career
18 Services programs.

1 Deputy Chief Warner and I propose a new pilot
2 program under the CRA, an idea suggested by
3 Speaker Kidwell and Councilor Julia Coates.

4 Let's commit at least \$2 million annually to
5 reimburse Cherokees for job training expenses
6 in high demand industries no matter where
7 they live including our at-large citizens.

8 The Artist Recovery Act expires at the end of
9 this month. It has done so much to support
10 artists and inspire a new generation of
11 Cherokee creators. The ARA helped fuel
12 creativity, produce public art and built the
13 wonderful Ani Art Center in Stilwell.

14 We are in a Cherokee cultural renaissance, and
15 we should not slow down. So, Deputy Chief
16 Warner and I propose to make the Artist
17 Recovery Act permanent with the new Artist
18 Resiliency Act.

1 Our mission to revitalize language and culture
2 in our time must continue. The doors just
3 opened at our state-of-the-art immersion
4 middle school. Two months ago, we declared
5 our independence from the State of Oklahoma,
6 and now Cherokee language immersion is fully
7 in the hands of the Cherokee people.

8 Next week we will launch the Cherokee Nation
9 language hub, a one stop shop on our website
10 for our language revitalization mission. On that
11 website will be something precious: the voices
12 of over 1,000 elders fluently speaking our
13 language, preserved forever.

14 Our language revitalization mission is
15 succeeding.

16 To take us further, that mission needs a leader.
17 That mission need a leader who feels the
18 urgency of the moment, the dreams of our

1 ancestors, the expectations of our people and
2 the great potential of our descendants.

3 That is why I will nominate Howard Paden to be
4 Cherokee Nation’s first Secretary of Language
5 and Culture.

6 My fellow Cherokees, the Bible says, for
7 everything there is a season.

8 There is a season to be born and a season to
9 die.

10 There is a season to plant. There is a season to
11 pluck up that which has been planted.

12 I know what season we are in. I can feel it in the
13 air.

14 I can see it in the faces of those who have
15 traveled with us on this long journey.

16 We have run so hard for over seven years.

17 I can see that the end of a journey draws near.

1 To everything, there is a season.

2 And I know without doubt what season we are
3 in.

4 Deputy Chief Warner knows without doubt
5 what season we are in.

6 Those who have worked with us and those who
7 know our history, they know what season we
8 are in.

9 After all, this is the Hoskin / Warner
10 administration.

11 After all, this is the Cherokee Nation.

12 This is a nation whose triumphs are greater
13 than its tragedies.

14 We are a people whose ancestors got knocked
15 down a time or two, but who never stayed
16 down.

1 This is a nation that bent at times but never
2 broke.

3 This is a nation full of restless people, 477,000
4 strong coast-to-coast, border to border, around
5 the globe who were meant to succeed.

6 We know what season it is.

7 My fellow Cherokees this is no season of rest.

8 This is no time to slow down.

9 This is a season of urgency.

10 This is a season of ambition.

11 This is a season of aspiration.

12 This is the season where the work must
13 continue, where the pace must quicken and
14 where we have not a moment to lose.

15 This is a season of an old democracy that still
16 feels so young.

1 This is a season for a government of the people
2 and by the people to do even more to serve the
3 people.

4 This is a season when Cherokee greatness must
5 still be measured by Cherokee goodness.

6 This is not the season of “I” and “me,” this is
7 the season of ga-du-gi.

8 This is the season to do all we can to move this
9 nation forward.

10 This is a season to run through that finish line
11 as hard as we can.

12 This is not a season to slow down and admire
13 what has been done, this is a season to commit
14 ourselves to do even more.

15 I know what season it is for the Hoskin / Warner
16 administration.

1 I know what season it is for the great Cherokee
2 Nation.

3 This is a season of momentum that cannot be
4 stopped even when we pass the torch of
5 leadership 343 days from now.

6 My fellow Cherokees let us keep working hard
7 so on that final day we can say, without a
8 shadow of a doubt, that our nation is strong
9 and that the best days of the Cherokee Nation
10 are still ahead of us.

11 <https://tsalagi-my.sharepoint.com/personal/chuck->

12 [hoskin_cherokee_org/Documents/Documents/Speech.SOTN2026.FINAL.20260904.docx](https://tsalagi-my.sharepoint.com/personal/chuck-hoskin_cherokee_org/Documents/Documents/Speech.SOTN2026.FINAL.20260904.docx)