

## **ANCESTORS KNOW WHO WE ARE** **RODSLEN BROWN TRIBUTE**

**Audio Description:** A round seal with a brown bird, orange leaves, seven-pointed star, and a banner reading Celebrating Tribal Sovereignty. On-screen text: Together. Community. Family. Culture. 68th Annual Cherokee National Holiday.

**Audio Description:** In a cemetery, a large arrowhead-shaped gravestone with the photo of a Black woman and the text: Rodslen Brown-King. July 22, 1960 to June 9, 2020.

**Spencer Nero:** Yeah, Rodslen has been honored for the Statesman Award. And as far as the things that she's done in the community and within the nation, have been really great.

**Audio Description:** Speaker: Spencer Nero, Nephew of Rodslen Brown-King. A Black man in a white shirt and hat, he stands in front of the Martin Luther King Community Center.

**Spencer Nero:** Trying to bring, you know, the Freedmen and also the tribe back together with the One Blood and Unity event that she did, a great, great, great event.

**Audio Description:** Photos of Rodslen. She stands with other Black men, women, and children, all wearing t-shirts reading: Let the Work You Do Speak For You.

**Spencer Nero:** One of the things I can say about Rodslen is she was very passionate.

**Audio Description:** Speaker: Melissa Payne, Daughter of Rodslen Brown-King. A Black woman in a purple shirt, she stands outside.

**Melissa Payne:** Rodslen Brown is the most amazing woman I have ever known, not just because she was my mother, but because her heart was so big that she wanted to help everyone.

**Audio Description:** More photos of Rodslen posing with different groups of people.

**Melissa Payne:** She just... That was what she wanted to do when she was the age around five. Her sisters told me, they sat in the room with her and she told them, she looked out the window and said, I just want to help people.

**Melissa Payne:** I'm thankful for her because she has taught us so much. She has taught us to look beyond our means. Color doesn't matter. My mother, Rodslen Brown, loved everyone. She came up with Project A in the year 2000, and it wasn't an option for me. I was a part of Project A. And we continue to assist and help the youth, the elderly... She was so thankful for Cherokee Nation, and she told us how thankful we should be and how we need to learn more about our heritage.

**Audio Description:** Rodslen and others in Native dress walk in a parade.

**Audio Description:** Framed plaque with photo of Rodslen and a title reading 2013 Cherokee National Community Leadership Award. Individual.

**Spencer Nero:** As far as keeping everything going with Project A and a lot of the visions that Rodslen had, of course, it's going to take a team. But as far as her children and then you have, you know, myself and my wife and the other members of Project A, we've already been, you know, meeting and trying to put things together to make sure that the visions that she has and what and what she was wanting to do with the Cherokee Nation and also Project A will continue to go on.

**Audio Description:** On-screen text: 2020 Statesman Award. Ms. Rodslen Brown-King. Posthumous.

**Audio Description:** Seal of the Cherokee Nation. On-screen text: Cherokee National Holiday. Holiday dot Cherokee dot org. Cherokee Nation.