



GWYD DBF
CHEROKEE NATION®

Contact: Travis Noland
(918) 384-6992

For Immediate Release

Statement from Principal Chief Bill John Baker

(May 6, 2013) – “This morning, I received Attorney General Hembree’s letter that he is taking leave to seek treatment for alcoholism. Todd and his family are in our thoughts and prayers. As he has requested, we will give him time and space to come closer to his family and his faith as he finds sobriety.

“The use of alcohol not only affects that person, but it impacts the lives of their family, friends and loved ones. In the case of a public official, it affects the people he or she may serve and, sometimes, colleagues. Late last week, I learned of Todd’s alcohol dependency and the effects it has had on some employees. I met with those employees and expressed my sadness and displeasure for the pain he caused them and let them know I don’t condone his actions.

“My duty as Principal Chief is to uphold the Cherokee Nation Constitution and the integrity of our government and serve the people to the best of my ability. Paramount to me is ensuring our employees have a safe and professional workplace.”