



**OCCANEECHI BAND OF THE SAPONI NATION, INC.**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JANUARY 25th, 2023**

## **OCCANEECHI BAND OF SAPONI NATION**

**JOHN “BLACKFEATHER” JEFFRIES**

### *OFFICIAL STATEMENT*

It is with great sorrow, the utmost reverence, honor, and respect, that we issue the following statement.

Tribal Elder and Past Chairman John Jeffries passed away on January 24th, 2023! The entire Tribal Nation, Indian Country, Friends and beyond are saddened at the loss of one of our great leaders and standard bearers. His efforts have been felt for decades by American Indians and others across our great nations. He touched so many of us and was an iconic mentor for us all. The Tribal Nation will be in mourning and will honor Chief Jeffries' family by respectfully following their privacy wishes for his last rites and private ceremony. We have lost a legendary Warrior for all Natives across the country; he will be remembered and forever live in our hearts and actions!

Please keep the Jeffries family in your thoughts and prayers! May he rest in peace.....

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**NATIVE PEOPLE OF ALAMANCE, CASWELL & ORANGE COUNTIES**