
“But now, especially the generation that I'm in with the combination where we're, you know, previous to these times, we were just trying to survive. We, you know, after being removed from Kansas, we were 20,000 people strong. Around the time Lewis and Clark came through Kansas, and by about 1920, we went from 20,000 people to 165 people. And Charlie and I are the survivors and descendants of the last surviving members of our tribe that have the combination. So, you know, I think, for most Kansans, we're invisible. We don't exist to most Kansas, if you were to ask, if you if you got 10, Kansas in the room, nine out of 10 would not even know that the name of the state comes from our people. And I remember as a young man, I was working in Washington DC, for the Smithsonian Institution. And I met Senator Dole on the steps of the United States Capitol. And Bob, of course, you know, Bob Dole, longtime senator from Kansas, and I went up to him and I introduced myself to him, and I said, my name is James Pepper Henry. I'm a member of the Kaw Nation, and he looked at me, and I said, Kaw… and then I said, Konza, then I say Kanza. He had no idea that his state that he represented for all those years in Congress, in the United States Senate, was named after our people.”