

## **2025 Beloved Nomination Community Input Report**

### **Questions:**

Input provider name: (optional)

Input provider community: (optional)

1. How has the nominee positively impacted the Cherokee community?
2. In your opinion, how does this nominee reflect Cherokee core values (eg, humility, stewardship, service, cultural leadership)?
3. Do you support this person being recognized as a Cherokee Beloved?
4. Additional comments or stories you'd like to share: (optional)

### **Responses:**

**Date: July 3, 2025 10:38 am via website**

**Community: Birdtown**

**Name: Amanda McCoy**

**Question 1:** Davy is an exceptional woodcarver who is always willing to share his knowledge with everyone be they EBCI or a craft supporter. He has always supported Cherokee culture and our craft culture.

**Question 2:** Since I first met Davy he has always been very humble in how he presents himself as a master artisan. When seeing him interact with students he's always quick with a joke or two. He was once asked in front of me "What tools does a person need to begin woodcarving?" He replied with "A knife and a box of band aids because you're going to use both."

**Question 3: YES**

**Option 4:** Davy has done work sharing our culture in different places around the world, here in his hometown of Cherokee, Southern Highland Craft Guild (where he is a lifetime member), and Eurodisney.

**Date: July 2, 2025 4:27 pm via website**

**Community: Birdtown**

**Name: Tonya E. Carroll**

**Question 1:** Davy Arch has made a lasting and positive impact on the Cherokee community through his deep knowledge of Cherokee history, culture, and art. He shares this knowledge freely, with humor, passion, and humility, and has taught many Cherokee people traditional skills such as carving, flint knapping, and storytelling. His contributions

extend beyond teaching; he has supported numerous cultural institutions, serving on the boards of the Oconaluftee Indian Village, Qualla Arts & Crafts Mutual, and the Museum of the Cherokee People.

Davy is a gentle and uplifting presence who leads by example, demonstrating how to live in a way that honors and shares Cherokee history and culture. He lives a humble life, without material wants or needs, and would give anyone the shirt off his back. His generosity is well known throughout the community. I had the privilege of working alongside him at the Oconaluftee Indian Village for eight seasons, and he made every day meaningful and enjoyable. Personally, he has had a significant impact on my life, and when questions about our culture arise, he's always one of the first people I turn to for guidance. Davy's selflessness, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to the community make him truly deserving of the Beloved Man title.

**Question 2:** Davy Arch is a living example of the Cherokee Core Values. He embodies humility in every interaction, never seeking recognition, but always showing up with kindness, humor, and a willingness to help. His life reflects a deep commitment to service, especially through his role as a presenter for the Duyugodv'i Right Path Adult Leadership Program, where he generously shares his knowledge of Cherokee history and culture to help others grow as leaders.

He also reminds me of the "old timer" Cherokees who still value face-to-face connection. Davy makes time to check on people in person, and when we need to reach him, it's often by calling his landline, stopping by his house early in the morning before he leaves, or even mailing a letter asking him to visit our office. That kind of care and presence is rare and deeply meaningful.

Davy is a true steward of our culture, not just in what he teaches, but in how he lives. His cultural leadership is rooted in example, not ego. He lives simply, gives freely, and treats others with respect and warmth. In every way, Davy reflects the values that continue to guide us as Cherokee people.

**Question 3: YES**

**Option 4:** I was delighted to see Davy Arch nominated for the title of Beloved Man. He is truly deserving of this honor because of the deep love he has for our tribe and culture. Davy has a rare ability to connect with people, you can sit and talk with him for hours and come away feeling seen, heard, and inspired. He's incredibly knowledgeable, yet so down-to-earth and relatable that he leaves a lasting impact on everyone he meets.

**Date: July 12, 2025 12:39 pm via website**

**Community: Anonymous**

**Name: Anonymous**

**Question 1:** Davy represents the Cherokee people in the best possible way! He shares his creativity with everyone and is so very pleasant in doing so!

**Question 2:** Davy is a leader in all aspects of Cherokee life!

**Question 3: YES**

**Option 4:** Davy has no equal in his sharing of Cherokee traditions!

**Date: July 8, 2025 5:06 pm via website**

**Community: Anonymous**

**Name: Anonymous**

**Question 1:** Davy Arch experience and knowledge of the Cherokee has been an inspiration to all and his willingness to educate and volunteer to assist.

**Question 2:** Davy Arch is an exceptional lecturer, guide and demonstrator and volunteers to assist with services that are in need

**Question 3: YES**

**Option 4:** Davy Arch is a kind, and giving man, who deserves recognition for his contribution and knowledge.

**Date: July 8, 2025 7:39 pm via website**

**Community: Anonymous**

**Name: Anonymous**

**Question 1:** His volunteering and spreading his knowledge of the Cherokee people. I've had the privilege of meeting at several Cherokee heritage events. Hayesville NC Cherokee heritage days. Robbinsville Azalea festival he did a River Cane walk it was outstanding event.

**Question 2:** When you meet him you can feel how proud he is of his Cherokee heritage. He is truly a asset to the Cherokee people.

**Question 3: YES**

**Option 4:** No response

**Date: Jul 30, 2025, 09:19 PM via website**

## **Community: Wolftown**

**Name: John David Arch Jr**

**Question 1:** 1. POSITIVELY I am the youngest son of Anne Jean Johnson Arch and the only begotten son of John David Arch Sr. I do not remember everything from my childhood about Davy Mitchell Arch, but I do remember the kindness he showed me when my paternal grandmother, Callie Crowe Arch died, I was young and didn't understand death like I do now. I didn't really get to know him till I found out that he had a 4-year old son and they moved back to Cherokee N.C. About this time, my maternal grandmother tripped at a Christmas Bazaar at the old Civic Center and suffered a stroke. My mother moved in with Granny and Dave started taking care of my maternal grandfather. As Granny got worse and finally took her journey, Grandpa started losing his independence in movement and Dave was always there to take him places. He would take him fishing and when they met old friends, Dave always took the time to chat with them and always included Grandpa in the conversation. THAT is his positive impact on the Cherokee community is the care he showed for my grandfather and later his mother.

NEGATIVELY He never attended community meetings, participate in community events, or participate in local elections. He never served in military, not because he wasn't physically unable, but just because he was selfish. Initially, I thought he was taking care of everyone because that is what you do when you are older, however, since my mother passed in March 2022, I have seen a different side, one of greed, selfishness, and authoritarianism.

**Question 2:** Spirituality - Although he was raised to go to church by my father, he never attended church until he started taking care of his mother and she made him take him. When I retired from the Navy, I came home and lived with her and started taking her to church, to which he never attended. He has no spirituality other than his love for money and possessions.

Group Harmony - In the community he does nothing, he doesn't attend community meetings, he doesn't participate in community events, he supports no political candidate or participates in ANY political election. He has single handedly destroyed our family, mom's other son doesn't come around at all and the last time we spent Christmas or any holiday together was in 2021, before my mothers passing in March 2022. Since then we, all of mom's sons, have had NO family gathering or been together as a family as we once were. He doesn't freely share or give time, talent, or treasures unless he has an end goal that benefits him. Most of his presentations were paid for by various organizations and people. He is a selfish man that only believes in himself and no one else.

Strong Individual Character - Davy Mitchell Arch has no integrity, when my mother had a massive stroke in November 2014, she lost her ability to physically open up her eyes. To see, she would have to take her fingers and pry her eyelids apart for her to see. In December 2014, Davy had her change her will where he was the sole beneficiary of all her land properties, bank accounts, and personal items. The only thing that mom's

second son and myself received from her will was \$100, a legal obligation to avoid completely disinheriting us without formally stating it.

Stewardship - This is one core value that Davy Mitchell Arch holds to the most, ensuring that he completely owns all the land in our family. Although he owns all the land, he doesn't have any use for the land or purpose other than just having it in HIS name. Attaching this Cherokee Core Value to the name of Davy Mitchell Arch is a perverted commitment.

Tribal Identity - This is the one Cherokee Core Value I believe he holds dear, but with his twisted heart it is not pure. I have never known him to have a job that wasn't directly connected to talking about or explaining Cherokee culture. Although many might think he aligns with this core value, the fact he has done nothing for the Cherokee community, no programming, no organizational development, and no personal investment, shows that he only thinks of himself as a tribal entity.

Education - He is an amazing speaker and educator, however, in my opinion, Davy Mitchell Arch is not a strong role model for a Cherokee. He has completely destroyed our family and has only his interests to serve and not that of the tribe. Although he can explain with amazing detail how Cherokee culture worked and how it was used to develop our community, he does not believe in that nor practice it.

Sense of humor - no comment

### **Question 3: NO**

**Option 4:** Davy kicked out a retired veteran who was in school with no place to go. In 2015, I was living in a trailer Jean Arch bought my nephew on Stillwell Branch Rd., Jeremy Arch, when he was having a difficult time in school and being rejected by his father and new wife. I was talking to my friends about where I was living about what the family owned and what was going to happen to all the property. They begged me to find out what Davy had done and what his plans were, I didn't do that because I believed Davy to have these Cherokee Core Values that is listed here. Then when my mother passed in 2022, I was working at Tribal Transit as a Day Shift Supervisor working from 6:30 A.M. to 3:30. P.M. still living in that trailer on Stillwell Branch Rd. and going to school for my masters. I came home one afternoon during lunch in May 2022 and found all of my belongings on the porch that had been cleared out of the trailer by Davy Mitchell Arch. When asked by my friend why, the conversation went like this: My friend: Why are you doing this to your brother John? Davy: It was understood that he was only to live here while he went to school. My friend: But he's in school now, getting his masters, he still has another semester to go. Davy: Well he's smart, he will figure out what to do! This is the man you are nominating to represent the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians as a Beloved Man? Not serving in the military Davy Mitchell Arch graduated from Sylva-Webster High School in 1975 and many of the armed services were trying to recruit him to serve. He later joked about it by saying that he was not a fighter but a lover. This is the man, who blatantly avoided serving in the military, you are nominating to represent the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians as a Beloved Man! Oconostota, Little Turkey, Dr. Jerry Wolfe, and former Principal Chief Robert Younger are all warriors and

veterans. Knowing Davy Mitchell Arch is NOT a veteran, this committee feels Davy Mitchell Arch is worthy of this title of Beloved Man and want to nominate him to represent the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians as a Beloved Man? It is a shame that we are going down this path. Completely at odds with mom's second son, Sampson Andrew Arch (Buck) I am not sure where the animosity between these two men started or when, but the only commonality between them, and me, is our mother. All three of us have different fathers with my father being the strongest of the three, adopting Davy and Buck to provide for them and make them into a family. Since Davy graduated from high school, private encounters with Buck have always ended in physical altercations. The only time that they were civil with one another was during family gatherings where they chose not to act out for the sake of mom. This is the man, who destroyed our family, to represent the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians as a Beloved Man? Doesn't contribute to the Woftown community I have attended more Woftown community meetings than he has and I only started going two years ago. He doesn't attend any community meeting or participate in any community event. He is a loner and chooses not to engage with the Cherokee people unless he is demonstrating or speaking at an event. Davy Mitchell Arch does not meet the qualification that he must demonstrate a lifestyle reflective of the Cherokee Core values and a major portion of the Beloved characteristics. He kicked me out of the place I was living, he didn't serve in the military, he is estranged from mom's second son, his step-brother, and he doesn't contribute to the Woftown community

**Date: Jul 31, 2025, 03:23 PM via website**

**Community: Woftown**

**Name: Anonymous**

**Question 1:** Davy has acquired knowledge from the older generation and passed on knowledge to the next generation

**Question 2:** 1: SPIRITUALITY- Although I have attended church with Davy's parents and their 2 younger children years ago, I have never seen Davy in church nor express any form of spirituality.

2: GROUP HARMONY (Community & Kin Relationships, And Freely sharing and giving time, talent, and treasures)- Family-wise: Davy does not have a strong family bond with his siblings. Although I could elaborate, I do not feel it is my place to speak concerning the situation without his two brothers permission. I would strongly encourage the Committee to reach out to Davy's brothers (Buck & JD). I will say that Davy has betrayed his Parents heritage and betrayed his Siblings. Rather than freely sharing & giving, the absolute opposite has happened, involving broken trust, broken promises and outright meanness. When the truth comes out about what he has done, people will see he has desecrated the Arch family name with his self-interest and self centeredness.

Community-wise: I am very active in the Woftown Community and have never seen Davy at any events, as a speaker nor an attendee/ participant. Tribal-wise: I attend various Tribal events and have never seen Davy at any events unless he was a paid speaker.

3: STRONG INDIVIDUAL CHARACTER (Integrity, Honesty, Perseverance, Courage, Respect, Trust, Honor, Humility)- Davy has abdicated his integrity and honesty, disrespected his entire family, broken all trust with his brothers, broke the trust of his Dying Mother, and dishonored his family and himself.

4: STRONG CONNECTION WITH THE LAND and COMMITMENT TO STEWARDSHIP OF THE HOMELANDS OF THE CHEROKEE: - Although Davy now owns all of his Family land, I am unaware of any stewardship of the land and his only connection to the land is that it was his family's land. He did not honor what was supposed to be done with the land.

5: HONORING THE PAST BY KNOWING ONE'S ANCESTORS, IDENTIFYING WITH AND BELONGING TO THE TRIBE AND LIVING AND PRESERVING CHEROKEE CULTURE- I do believe that Davy is proud to be Cherokee and speaks highly of his Maternal family line. Being that he is adopted by the man who raised him as his own son, John David Arch Senior, I believe he dishonors his adopted Father by not speaking about the Arch's. He uses the name Arch but does not carry it with Pride or the Gratitude that it deserves. I can not speak of his bloodline on his biological father as he never speaks of him or those ancestors. Davy has been a part of preserving the Cherokee culture, through his job at the Museum and various speaking events in the past.

6. EDUCATING THE CHILDREN BY PROVIDING VALUES -ORIENTED EDUCATION AND RECREATION, AND BY BEING STRONG ROLE MODELS FOR THEM- Davy is a very eloquent speaker and has been willing to teach anyone what his personal experience growing up Cherokee has been. Due to some character flaws, he is not a strong role model for any Cherokee. He decimated any chance of family harmony and does not have much or possibly any chance of reconciliation. He insulted the Matriarchal Society of the Cherokee by dishonoring his Mother.

7. SENSE OF HUMOR: - I have never had an occasion to witness Davy's sense of humor

### **Question 3: NO**

**Option 4:** In the interest of preserving the Honor, Virtue and Integrity of the Beloved Person position of the Tribe, I strongly advise against Davy's nomination at this time. Citing a story in The One Feather concerning the nomination of a Beloved Person, "Amy Walker, an EBCI tribal elder from the 3200 Acre Tract, said it is important to remember the value system that was in place generations ago for Cherokee people. "I wonder how many people, in today's society, really understand the value of who our ancestors were and the culture that they lived by. They couldn't lie to each other back then. They lived in such a high place spiritually that they knew and the people knew they couldn't lie to them. And, in today's time, lies slide out of different people's mouths very easily...so, when we talk about who deserves to be called Beloved, we need people who understand the value of who our ancestors were..." Unfortunately, and I say this with a heavy heart, what she said a Beloved Person is does not describe Davy. I do not want the Beloved People committee or our Tribe to be embarrassed when all of the things about Davy come to light. Again, I strongly urge against the nomination of Davy Arch

