

SOONER MAGAZINE

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Courtesy, Cherokee Nation

1976 OU Law graduate Dwight Birdwell receives the Medal of Honor from President Joe Biden on July 5. Birdwell was recognized for heroic actions under heavy fire during a 1968 battle in the Vietnam War. Birdwell, who practices law in Oklahoma City, is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and served on the Cherokee Nation Supreme Court from 1987 to 1999, including as chief justice. He also is the recipient of two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart, and becomes the first Native American to receive the Medal of Honor for service in Vietnam.