



Joy Harjo smiling, 2019* by Library of Congress Life is marked with CC0 1.0.

Former Poet Laureate Joy Harjo in front to the US Captiol Builing.

Joy Harjo

By A. Student

“

All cultures and peoples turn to poetry during times of celebration, transformation, and challenge—those times when ordinary language cannot carry meaning beyond our understanding.

— Joy Harjo

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A Few Books by Joy

She Had Some Horses (1983)
Crazy Brave (2012)
An American Sunrise (2019)
Poet Warrior (2021)
Remember (2023)

Joy Harjo is from Tulsa, Oklahoma.



**FUN
FACT**

Joy also loves to play the saxophone and do art.



Joy Harjo is an influential Indigenous leader who has made a difference by sharing Native stories and representing her community through poetry. She was born on May 9, 1951 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and she is a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Native people were often erased or shown in unfair ways. Joy Harjo chose to write poetry to share real Native voices and stories. She published many books. Her poetry helps people better understand Native experiences. She became the United States Poet Laureate from 2019 to 2022. Her work is powerful. She was the first Native American to hold this role. Her work reached people across the country. In the past, many people did not always hear Native voices. Joy Harjo helped change that through her poetry. Joy Harjo teaches us to celebrate who we are, stay connected to our culture, and use our voices to share our stories.