

**Don't miss the official opening of the 114th Annual Meeting!**

Wednesday, November 18, 6:30 PM-8:00 PM  
Centennial E (Hyatt Regency)

The event will open with a short welcome by AAA President Monica Heller followed by remarks from Native Elder John Emhoola and Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper.



**John Emhoola Jr.** (Kiowa Name: Pbonh Goot Thay means Yellow Bead) has led the Denver Indian community for many years – people from many tribal nations across the country –in breathing new life into their heritage. John Emhoolah works to build bridges of understanding between cultures. He is of the Kiowa and Arapaho tribes of Oklahoma. John is a long-time Denver resident with his wife Geneva, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He served in the US Army 45<sup>th</sup> Division from 1950-1952 in the Thunderbird Division, “B” Battery, 158<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery and is a proud Korean War Veteran. He maintains an active role in several traditional Kiowa societies including the O-Ho-Mah War Dance Society, Kiowa Gourd Clan, Ton-Kon-Gah Black Leggings Society and the Kiowa Native American Church. John carries his message of traditional spiritual ways and prayers to countless events and was inspirational in the passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

Emhoola is a co-founder of the internationally famous Denver March Pow-wow where he has served in numerous leadership roles. He has volunteered countless hours with the Native American Resource Group at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver Public Schools, Denver Mayor’s Advisory Council, University of Denver, University of Colorado, Denver Art Museum, Tesoro Cultural Center, History Colorado, and the Tallbull Memorial Council. He has received many achievement awards including the prestigious Martin Luther King, Jr. Award, Tesoro Foundation Honored Veteran, DMNS Education of Year Award and National Indian Education Association Elder Educator of the Year Award, and in 2010 John officially retired honorably from Adams 12 Five Star Schools as the Indian Education Director.

Text and image taken from AAA welcome announcement at-  
<http://www.americananthro.org/ConnectWithAAA/AnnouncDetail.aspx?ItemNumber=13182>