

Long Bio

Jack Wallace Gladstone descends from both indigenous American and immigrant European traditions. On his father's side, two great grandfathers, Jack Wagner and Billy Gladstone, served as tribal interpreters. They were pivotal figures as the Blackfoot Confederacy transitioned from the buffalo age into the 20th century. Billy's dad, William S. Gladstone, arrived on the British/Canadian Plains in 1848, as an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company. William S. Gladstone, a Scotsman, in 1855, married a native woman, Harriet LaBlanc.

Jack's Blackfeet grandmother, Lily, was a granddaughter of Chief Red Crow, warrior/diplomat on what became the Blood Indian Reserve in Southwestern Alberta, Canada. Jack's mother, Pearl (1923), is a descendant of German/North Dakotan homesteaders. Born on Montana's Blackfeet Reservation, his father Wally (1925-2003), was a combat veteran of both Haskill Indian Boarding School and the Pacific Theatre, during WWII. After the war, the couple met and married in Seattle. A scholar-athlete in high school, Jack attended the University of Washington on a football scholarship where he earned both a degree in Speech Communications and a Rose Bowl Championship ring.

Upon graduation, Jack returned to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and taught at the local community college. He also helped coach high school football and track. In 1985, Jack co-founded Glacier National Park's "Native America Speaks." This program has emerged as the longest running indigenous speaker series in Park Service history. In 1987, Jack transitioned into a full time performing and recording career, producing 15 critically acclaimed CD's and presenting thousands of concerts, workshops, and school programs throughout the world.

In 2011, Jack garnered the prestigious "*Best Historical Recording*" award from the Native American Music Association for his masterpiece, *Native Anthropology; Challenge, Choice, and Promise in the 21st Century*. In 2012, Jack was called twice to perform at the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian. In 2013, Jack was the recipient of the *C.M. Russell Heritage Award* that applauded his contribution to "the legacy, culture, life, and country of Russell's West." Jack became the first Montanan and only Native American to be so acclaimed. In the autumn of 2013, Jack was inducted into the *University of Washington Alumni Hall of Fame* in the field of Speech Communications. In the winter of 2014, Jack Gladstone and Friends were featured on Montana PBS, *11th and Grant with Eric Funk*. In 2015, Jack was honored by the State of Montana with a *Governor's Humanities Award*.