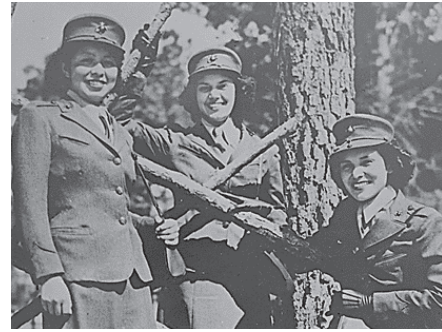


NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL

First Here, First to Serve, Always Remembered



A CASE FOR SUPPORT



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian



Kiowa Marine veteran Master Gunnery Sergeant Vernon Tsoodle's dance regalia blends United States and tribal military traditions. A Marine Corps medallion hangs on a beaded necklace beside a gourd rattle made from a Vietnamese hand grenade. The fan is made with bald eagle feathers, which represent strength. The beaded pin indicates that Tsoodle is a descendant of Red Tipi, father of Satanta, one of the best known Kiowa war chiefs. Photo by Nancy Tsoodle Moser, 2009

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS



The nation's capital is known for its grand monuments and solemn memorials, including many honoring our nation's veterans. Yet no national landmark in Washington, DC, focuses on the exceptional contributions of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians who have served in the military since colonial times.

Native veterans deserve to be honored. Each service member has a tale of valor, like Private Carl Gorman who, despite being punished in school for speaking his Navajo language as a child, served as a Code Talker in World War II; or Master Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Keeble, Korean War veteran and the first Sioux man to receive the Medal of Honor; or First Lieutenant Nainoa K. Hoe, a Native Hawaiian who lost his life serving in Iraq; and Colonel Wayne Don, who currently commands 1,200 Alaska National Guard soldiers. These are only a few of the tens of thousands of Native American men and women who have served this country but have yet to be recognized with a memorial of their own.

THAT IS ABOUT TO CHANGE.

You are among the first invited to participate in the creation of the National Native American Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. With this memorial, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian undertakes its most ambitious project since opening in 2004. Located on the museum grounds near the U.S. Capitol, the new memorial will honor the extraordinary service and spirit of Native warriors.

WHY NOW?

Recognition of Native Americans' service is long overdue. Accounts of their bravery in the armed forces are not widely known, represented in textbooks, or discussed in classrooms. If we don't keep these stories alive, they will fade away.

You can ensure that the story of Native Americans' patriotism, service, and sacrifice to this country is honored forever in the nation's capital.

As veterans of the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, this is personal for us. Can we count on you to join us in building the country's first national memorial devoted to Native veterans?

Native Americans were the first here. They are the first to serve. Now together we can ensure that they are always remembered.

Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Northern Cheyenne, Colorado
Advisory Committee Co-chair

Lt. Governor Jefferson Keel
Chickasaw Nation, Oklahoma
Advisory Committee Co-chair



Looking east towards the U.S. Capitol from the museum's croplands, 2004. © Maxwell MacKenzie

**“Why are we willing to sacrifice our lives for this country?
Because our great-great-grandparents’ bones are in
this land.”**

—Rod Grove (Southern Ute)

THE CASE FOR SUPPORT

Honoring Our Veterans: Past, Present, and Future



American Indians have served in every major military conflict since the Revolutionary War.

For instance:

- During World War II, more than 44,000 Native Americans served in the U.S. military.
- Code Talkers used their Native languages to transmit coded messages during both World Wars.
- More than 42,000 Native Americans served during the Vietnam War.
- Numerous Native American men and women have received the Purple Heart, Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Medal of Honor.
- Young people recruited from Indian boarding schools were among those who served.
- Alaska Natives served in the Alaska Territorial Guard in World War II, though they were not paid for their service.
- Today, more than 31,000 Native American men and women are on active duty and more than 140,000 veterans identify as American Indian or Alaska Native.

Native Americans serve in the U.S. Armed Forces at a higher rate in proportion to their population than any other ethnic group.*

A MONUMENTAL VISION

The memorial will:

- honor ALL Native American veterans: American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian men and women, from all eras and all branches of service;
- recognize the great sacrifices made and support given by the families of those who serve;
- reflect Native spirituality, including a space for meditation and cleansing; and
- be a place of healing for veterans and their families and for service members returning home today.

*According to Department of Defense statistics.

WHY INVEST IN THE MEMORIAL?



A FAMILY'S STORY

Chuck Boers (Lipan Apache Band, California) comes from a long line of warriors starting with his great-great-great grandfather, Juan Guerrero, an Apache scout and Texas Ranger. The commitment to serve extends to both sides of Boers's family, including numerous uncles and cousins. "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree," says Boers, adding that when he joined the army, his mother was his recruiter. This proud family tradition continues today with Boers's nephew, who is serving in the Air Force.

Desert Thunder, an all-Cherokee drum group. Al Taqaddum Air Base, Iraq, 2004.

During the Iraq War, the 120th Engineer Combat Battalion of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, hosted a powwow at Al Taqaddum Air Base near Fallujah, Iraq, on Sept. 17 and 18, 2004, to offset pangs of homesickness. "The beat of the drum is a part of the heartbeat of a Native American," said Sergeant Debra Mooney (Choctaw), who planned the event.

Photo by Chuck Boers



"I am proud of my service in Vietnam, but I am even prouder of the service of the sons and daughters who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom."

—Gold Star Father Allen K. Hoe (Native Hawaiian)

A HERO'S STORY

Master Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Keeble (Eastern Sioux, South Dakota) served in World War II and the Korean War. In October 1951, after all the officers of his company were killed or wounded, Sergeant Keeble took charge of the platoon—even though he had suffered eighty shrapnel wounds the day before. According to eyewitness accounts, Sergeant Keeble risked his life to conduct multiple single-handed assaults, thereby saving the lives of his fellow soldiers. Twenty-six years after his death, Sergeant Keeble received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

“Given that the government overran our homelands, suppressed our cultures, and confined us to reservations, some might say we have many reasons not to participate in the armed forces. Yet, in addition to serving ourselves, every one of us has a grandfather, an uncle, or sibling who has served.”

—Kurt V. BlueDog (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Minnesota)

A COMMUNITY'S STORY

A plaque hanging in the office of Kevin P. Brown (Mohegan, Connecticut) reminds him where he comes from. It commemorates Mohegan participation in every domestic conflict from the first contact with the European settlers and beyond the country's founding to today. Samuel Ashbow, a member of the Mohegan Tribe who fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775, was the first Native American to die in defense of this country. “The threads of history run deep,” says Brown, a veteran of Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom, and chairman of the Mohegan Tribe.

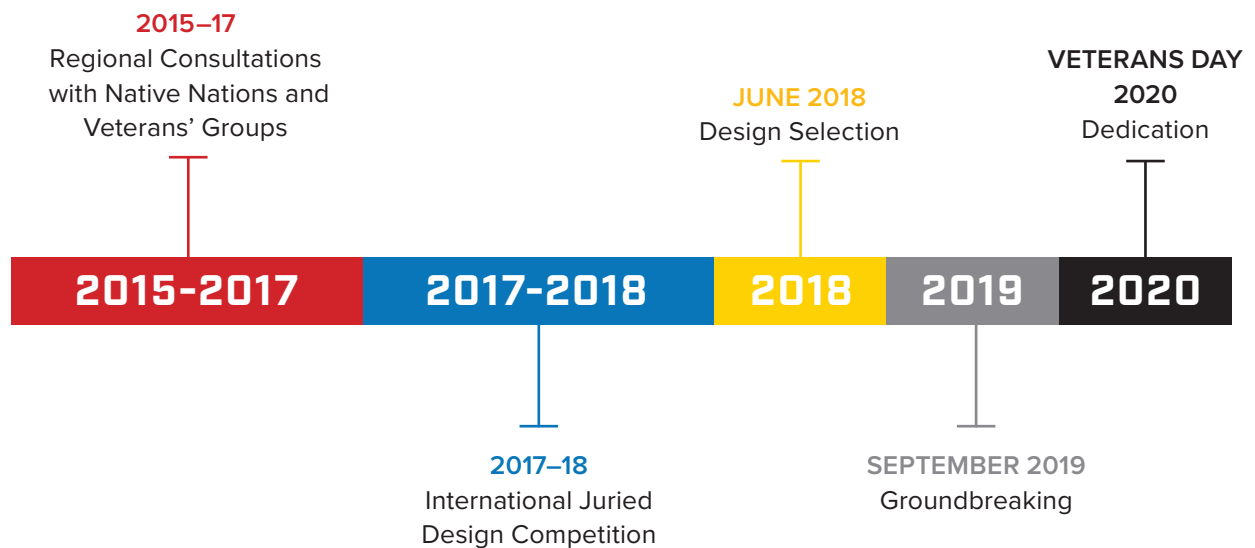
The National Native American Veterans Memorial will preserve the stories of heroes, families, and communities who have devoted their lives to serving this country.

WILL YOU MAKE A DONATION IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO SERVE?

A SHARED VISION

The U.S. Congress has charged the National Museum of the American Indian with building the National Native American Veterans Memorial. As with all monuments and memorials, no federal funds may be used to pay for the project. The museum depends on broad and deep community support to realize our vision for the memorial. With your support, we will unveil the memorial by Veterans Day 2020.

MEMORIAL TIMELINE



The effort to honor Native American service will extend beyond the physical memorial. For instance, the project also includes the following:

- A traveling exhibition, *Patriot Nations: Native Americans in Our Nation's Armed Forces*, that tells the stories of Native military service.
- An oral history project that will record veterans' stories—a partnership with the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress.
- An interactive website for those who want to explore the legacy of Native veterans but are unable to visit the memorial.

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?



Master Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Keeble, ca. 1955

Woodrow Wilson Keeble (Eastern Sioux, 1917–1982) was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. For his actions in combat, he received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, and the Combat Infantryman Badge. In 2007, his Distinguished Service Cross was posthumously upgraded to the Medal of Honor for his bravery during the Korean War. U.S. Army National Guard



“Northrop Grumman has a long history of supporting the Native American community and those who have so bravely defended our nation. This memorial is a perfect way to honor both.”

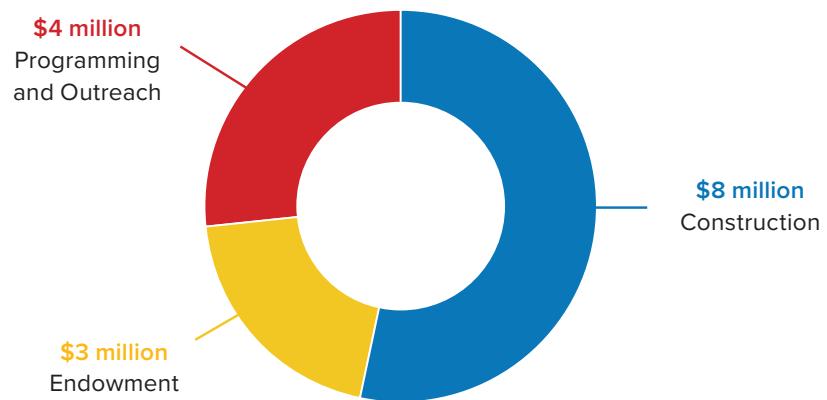
—Sandra Evers-Manly, Northrop Grumman Corporation
Vice President of Global Corporate Responsibility and
President of the Northrop Grumman Foundation

OUR GOAL: \$15 MILLION

With your support, the National Native American Veterans Memorial will not only honor our veterans and those on active duty, it will also preserve the Native American warrior legacy for future generations.

PROJECT BUDGET

The estimated budget for the memorial, its long-term maintenance, and associated educational programs, is \$15 million:



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Many of you attended the thirty-five regional and community consultations we organized around the country, while others have served on the memorial's advisory committee or have indicated your early support of the project. To you, we offer our heartfelt thanks.

Early commitments from Native American communities and organizations, tribal leaders, corporations, foundations, and individuals will allow us to begin construction in the coming year. Your support is critical to our success.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsorships with attractive benefits are available at several levels. Those who make a contribution of \$100,000 or more will be recognized at the memorial site. Leadership opportunities include:

- PLATINUM** \$1,000,000
- GOLD** \$500,000
- SILVER** \$250,000
- BRONZE** \$100,000

Please consider making a multi-year commitment today.

A MONUMENTAL MISSION

Creating a Legacy for Generations

President Obama awards Joseph Medicine Crow (Apsáalooke [Crow], 1913–2016) the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Washington, DC, August 2009.

The Apsáalooke [Crow] people named Medicine Crow a war chief for his military exploits in Europe during World War II.

JEWEL SAMAD / AFP / Getty Images



In 2004, an outpouring of private support made the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian possible. That same generous spirit is needed to create the National Native American Veterans Memorial and complete the story of how Native Americans have shaped and defended this great country.

The Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian is uniquely positioned to lead this effort. No organization has a better understanding of the exceptional service performed by American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native veterans. No other organization has the track record for raising funds for a project of this magnitude and importance.

“This is a historic moment for our country—for our veterans, and for the Native American communities whose loyalty and passion have helped make America what it is today.”

—Kevin Gover (Pawnee), Director, National Museum of the American Indian

Learn more:

www.AmericanIndian.si.edu

Contact us:

nmai-nativeveteransmemorial@si.edu

SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

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COVER: (Clockwise from top left) United States senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Northern Cheyenne, b. 1933), dressed in ceremonial Northern Cheyenne regalia during the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. Washington, DC, September 28, 1999. MARIO TAMA / AFP / Getty | The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, 2004 © Maxwell MacKenzie | Marine Corps Women Reservists, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, October 16, 1943. From left: Minnie Spotted Wolf (Blackfoot), Celia Mix (Potawatomi), and Viola Eastman (Chippewa). National Archives and Records Administration 535876 | Lt. Governor Jefferson Keel (Chickasaw), 2017 | Vietnam Era Veterans Inter-Tribal Association Color Guard (VEVITA) leads the grand entry at the National Powwow, Washington, DC, 2007. National Museum of the American Indian | Diné [Navajo] code talkers Corporal Henry Bahe Jr. and Private First Class George H. Kirk. Bougainville, South Pacific, December 1943. National Archives and Records Administration 127-MN-69889-B