

# FROM THE DIRECTOR



The idea that individuals should be remembered and acknowledged—for our humanity as much as for theirs—is at the heart of every memorial. I am pleased to present the selected design and vision for the museum’s National Native American Veterans Memorial. In late June 2018, an eight-member jury unanimously selected the concept submitted by Harvey Pratt (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma) titled Warriors’ Circle of Honor.

More than 120 artists and architects submitted proposals to the memorial completion. The distinguished group of Native and non-Native jurors identified five outstanding concepts for further development, including Pratt’s proposal. On this website, we share with you an excerpted profile of Pratt, and I encourage you to read the full article featuring Pratt’s concept on Smithsonianmag.com.

I would like to express my appreciation for the jury’s dedicated service as well as the generous donations we have received thus far from individuals, corporations, families and tribal Nations to help build the memorial. Our supporters have made it possible to reach this point. We will continue to ask for support so that on September 21, 2019, we can break ground toward an unveiling in late 2020.

Through meeting thousands of American Indian veterans, I have learned most of all about the commitment these men and women have to the wellbeing of the United States. They are perfectly aware that they are serving a country that had not kept its commitments to Indians, and yet they chose—and are still choosing—to serve. This reflects a very deep kind of patriotism. I can think of no finer example of service to the United States and the promise it holds.

## **Kevin Gover**

Pawnee, Oklahoma

Director, National Museum of the American Indian