



Our Warrior Spirit: Native Americans in the U.S. Military

Native Americans have served in the U.S. military since the American Revolution, and by percentage serve more than any other ethnic group in the armed forces. Join us at a special program as Native veterans share their heroic and unforgettable stories of service in conflicts, and noted scholar and author Herman J. Viola, curator emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution, chronicles the roles of Native soldiers from 1770 to the present, including tales of tragedy, humor, loyalty, and conflict.

The program features a panel of American Indians who have served our country in the armed forces, including **Debra Kay Mooney** (Choctaw), an Iraq War veteran who organized and hosted a powwow in a war zone in Iraq in 2004 (objects from the powwow will be on display at the museum during the program); **Chuck Boers** (Lipan Apache/Cherokee), an Iraq War veteran and the recipient of two Bronze Star and three Purple Heart medals; **John Emhoolah** (Kiowa), a Korean War Veteran who joined the Oklahoma Thunderbird Division when he was still in high school and later helped lobby for the passage of the Native American Religious Freedom Act; and **Joseph Medicine Crow**, a World War II veteran who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009 by President Barack Obama. **Jason Giles**—attorney, Marine Corps Captain, and tribal citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation—moderates.



DATE AND TIME

Friday, December 2, 2011
3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Rasmuson Theater

LOCATION

National Museum of the American Indian
Rasmuson Theater
4th Street and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20024
Live webcast at www.americanindian.si.edu/webcasts

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Metro: L'Enfant Plaza, Maryland Avenue/
Smithsonian Museums exit
[Click here to register.](#)

PHOTO CREDIT: Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and members of his staff, including Ely S. Parker (seated second from right), a Seneca Indian who achieved the rank of brigadier general during the Civil War. Mathew Brady Collection, National Archives.

Oglala Sioux warrior No Flesh in a studio portrait, ca. 1890. P09393

Joseph Medicine Crow (Crow), about to enter the dance arena at Crow Fair, holds a dance stick representing the horses he captured from German SS officers in World War II. Photo by Glen Swanson.

Drum circle during the 120th Engineer Combat Battalion powwow at Al Taqaddum Air Base, Iraq, 2004. Photo by Chuck Boers.

Powwow participants, including Sgt. Debra K. Mooney, seated far right, Al Taqaddum Air Base, Iraq, 2004. Photo by Chuck Boers.

Dance regalia of Vernon Tsoodle (Kiowa): a Marine medallion on a beaded necklace, beaded pin, blanket, and a gourd made from a Vietnamese hand grenade. Courtesy Vernon Tsoodle.



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