

# National American Indian Heritage Month



HONORING  
WARRIORS  
PAST & PRESENT

*Peter H...*  
2007

## **Preface**

Chief Librarian, Karen Olender, at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), created this document to provide background and reference material information for American Indian Heritage Month 2007. This document is posted on the Internet at: <https://www.deomi.org>. Additionally, there are various materials on the Web site that support other national observances.

<p>The opinions expressed in this report are those of the author and should not be construed to represent the official position of DEOMI, the U.S. military Services, or the Department of Defense.</p>
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## **NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH**

2007 Theme: Honoring Warriors: Past & Present

*1 November–30 November 2007*

In 1995, President Clinton proclaimed the month of November as “National American Indian Heritage Month.” We have celebrated the accomplishments and culture of American Indians by Presidential Proclamation each year since.

In *Modern American Indian Leaders: Their Lives and Their Work*, by Dean Chavers (2007), the author profiles eighty-seven American Indian heroes. Included in the book is biographical information on:

Admiral Joseph J. Clark, Cherokee, was the first Indian to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy (1917).

Col. Gregory (Pappy) Boyington, Coeur d’Alene, was the commanding officer of a Marine aviation squadron (Black Sheep) in WWII.

Capt. Raymond Harvey, Chickasaw, earned the Medal of Honor in Korea.

Cpl. Mitchell Red Cloud, Jr., Winnebago, won the Medal of Honor for valiant action during the Korean Conflict. Camp Red Cloud, a U.S. Army base in South Korea is named for him.

Pvt. Ira Hayes, Pima, assigned to the Fifth Marine Division, raised the American flag with five other men on Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima.

### **REFERENCES**

#### **Books**

*American Indians in World War II:*

Bixler, Margaret T. (1992). *Winds of Freedom: The Story of the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II*. Stratford, CT: Two Bytes Publishing, Ltd.

This interesting book features the history of the land myths of the Navajo code talkers, how the project to use Navajo language as code was conceived, how the code was developed, code talker experiences in the Pacific, and experiences back at home as veterans.

Franco, Jere’ Bishop. (1999). *Crossing the Pond: The Native American Effort in World War II*. Denton, TX: University of North Texas Press.

Oral histories and interviews, collections of papers from tribal councils, and various federal government records are used to tell the story of the role Native Americans in WWII. Chapters explore Nazi propaganda, the Selective Service, tribal resources used to support war efforts, and experiences of American Indian servicemen and women.

Langellier, John P. (2000). *American Indians in the U.S. Armed Forces, 1866–1945*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books.

Composed mainly of illustrations and photos, this book provides information on Apache Scouts, Troop L in U.S. cavalry regiments, and Company I in U.S. infantry regiments.

Meadows, William C. (2002). *The Comanche Code Talkers of World War II*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.

While Navajo code talkers were assigned to the Pacific theater, Comanche code-talkers came ashore on D-Day in Normandy assigned to the 4th Division, 4th Signal Company. The author tells the story of their recruitment and training, active duty, and postwar lives.

#### *Indian Warriors of the Past:*

Debo, Angie. (1976). *Geronimo: The Man, His Time, His Place*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press.

This definitive biography of Apache warrior Geronimo gives a detailed portrait of his life, Apache history and customs.

Marshall, Joseph M. III. (2004). *The Journey of Crazy Horse*. New York: Viking.

A Lakota Indian warrior, Crazy Horse, fought Custer at Little Big Horn. The author, Joseph Marshall III, was raised on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation and his first language is Lakota.

Sweeney, Edwin R. (1991). *Cochise: Chiricahua Apache Chief*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press.

Cochise was born around 1810 and by the time he was a young warrior Apaches enduring epidemics and starvation were making raids against Mexican and United States settlements to obtain cattle and horses.

#### *Histories:*

Banner, Stuart. (2005). *How the Indians Lost Their Land*. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.

Banner examines the land policies and relationships that caused Indians to lose ownership of their lands and defines removal and reservations policies.

Brown, Dee. (1970). *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston.

This classic book describes white settlements of the West from the American Indian viewpoint as settlers killed the natives, made and broke treaties and herded them onto reservations.

Josephy, Alvin M. (1994). *500 Nations*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

This book based on a documentary film tells the stories of the many American Indian nations that started losing their lands to white Europeans after Columbus landed in the Americas in 1492.

Page, Jake. (2003). *In the Hands of the Great Spirit: The 20,000-Year History of American Indians*. New York: Free Press.

Divided into five parts, Page's historical survey begins with the origins of North America's first inhabitants. Part two introduces the arrival of the Europeans. Part three details the early American Indians' wars with the French and amongst themselves. Part four relates the years of treaties and warfare between American Indian tribes and the new American nation. Finally, part five looks at modern American Indian (twentieth century) challenges.

Wilkerson, Charles. (2005). *Blood Struggle: The Rise of Modern Indian Nations*. New York: Norton & Co.

American Indian tribes reestablished their rights of land ownership, fishing, religious practices, and self-determination by initiating lawsuits and political action campaigns.

*American Indians Issues:*

Kallen, Stuart A. (Ed.) (2006). *Indian Gaming*. Detroit, MI: Gale Thomson.

Part of the Greenhaven Press' *At Issue* series on controversial issues, sixteen chapters explore the consequences and issues associated with the passage of the 1989 American Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

King, C. Richard. (Ed.) (2001). *Team Spirits: The Native American Mascots Controversy*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press.

This book looks at the origins of Native American sports team mascots, the messages sent by the use of them, and why we still have them today despite protests about the negative portrayal of Native American peoples.

Rosier, Paul C. (2003). *Native American Issues*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

This volume explores six major issues that are divisive in Native American communities: sports mascots, treaty rights, land claims, repatriation of ancestral remains and sacred objects, gaming, and the conflict between economic development and environmental protection.

### **Audiovisual Media**

Spielberg, Steven (Executive Producer). (2005). *Into the West* [Motion Picture]. Atlanta, GA.: TNT.

Running time: 12 hours

This miniseries explores the clash of cultures caused by the expansion of white settlers into American Indian territories. The film tells the story of members of the Lakota tribe and the Wheeler family whose lives intersect.

Woo, John (Director). (2002). *Windtalkers* [Motion Picture]. Santa Monica, CA: MGM Home Entertainment.

Running time: 2 hours, 14 minutes

Inspired by the experiences of Navajo code talkers in World War II, this motion picture features the story of a young Navajo and the tough Marine sergeant charged with guarding the code talker from the enemy.

### **Web Sites of Interest**

*American Indians in the United States Army*. Retrieved 8 September 2007 from [http://www.army.mil/americanindians/piestewa\\_05.html](http://www.army.mil/americanindians/piestewa_05.html)

This is an article on the U.S. Army Web site on Lori Piestewa, a Hopi Indian, who was killed in Iraq.

*American Indian Medal of Honor Winners*. Retrieved 8 September 2007 from <http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq61-3.htm>

This official Navy Web site lists nineteenth and twentieth century Medal of Honor winners.

*Indians.org*. Retrieved 11 September 2007 from <http://indians.org/>

The American Indian Heritage Foundation founded in 1973 sponsors this Web site featuring top stories of Indian Country and American Indians in the news.

*National Museum of the American Indian.* Retrieved 8 September 2007 from <http://www.nmai.si.edu/>

A Smithsonian Institution Museum, the National Museum of the American Indian includes collections of cultural and historical interest. Visit one of the multi-media exhibits online.

*Navajo Code Talkers' Dictionary.* Retrieved 8 September 2007 from <http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq61-4.htm>

Shush is the Navajo word for bear. This Web site lists the alphabet, Navajo code word, and literal translation the code talkers used in WWII.

*Origins of the Navajo Codetalkers.* Retrieved 8 September 2007 from <http://www.nsa.gov/publications/publi00034.cfm>

The National Security Agency Web site provides the history of how the idea and implementation of usage of the Navajo language to secure communications during WWII was developed.