

Department of Defense 2020 National American Indian Heritage Month Poster Set

Poster Description: The Department of Defense National American Indian Heritage Month poster set is the ninth in a series of posters commemorating the 75th Anniversary of World War II. Each commemorative poster, or poster set, highlights the significant contributions of special observance groups towards achieving total victory in this watershed event. Each poster is reminiscent of the colors and styles found in the 1940's Recruitment and Victory posters from the World War II era.

The 2020 National American Indian Heritage Month poster set consists of three posters which recognize three individuals who participated in the effort by All Americans in total victory. The backgrounds for all three posters are the same and consists of a textured tan color. The top two thirds of each poster is covered by a burnt orange foreground which is darker at the top and which transitions a lighter tan-orange as it reaches the bottom edge. Superimposed over the entire foreground are red brush strokes giving it an aged appearance. The orange-colored foreground is smaller than the tan background which leaves a tan border around the top and side edges. The foreground area's bottom edge is angled at a 45-degree angle with the bottom left side longer than the right side.

One of three separate individuals are situated in the center of the foreground area and supporting images behind them. The images a similar to a pencil sketch drawing.

Poster 1: depicts an image of Army Lieutenant Van T. Barfoot, a Choctaw Indian and recipient of the United States military's highest decoration—the Medal of Honor—for his actions in World War II.

Barfoot is facing the viewer and staring toward the viewer's right. He is wearing a khaki uniform and an officer's khaki overseas cap on his head. His unit crest is on the front left side of the cap (viewer's right). His dark hair is slightly visible under his cap. Barfoot sports an Army Infantry Officer's crossed rifles insignia on his left collar. Barfoot wears the combat infantryman's badge on his shirt over his left breast. Superimposed on the foreground and partially behind Barfoot's image is a sketch of a M4 Sherman tank which is traversing from right to left. It is slightly canted upwards as if climbing a small incline. The tank is sketched in a darker orange color which lightens in color until it is a tan color near the ground. Red brushstroke highlights across the top third of the poster give it the appearance of age. The tank commander rides in an open top cupola. His .50 caliber machine gun is facing downward towards the tank's front left slope. A large white star encircled by a wide white band is on the left side of the tank turret.

In May 1944, then Technical Sergeant Barfoot, at the age of 25, set out alone to flank German machine gun positions and stop enemy bullets that were killing his fellow soldiers. He advanced through a minefield and took out three enemy machine gun emplacements with hand grenades. As German tank crew members dismounted from their disabled tank, Sergeant Barfoot killed three of the German soldiers outright with his tommy gun. He then continued further into enemy terrain and destroyed a recently abandoned German fieldpiece with a demolition charge placed in the breach. Returning to his platoon he assisted two of his seriously wounded men 1,700 yards to a position of safety. Barfoot is credited with capturing and bringing back 17 German prisoners of

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war to his platoon position that day. Barfoot was subsequently commissioned a U.S. Army second lieutenant in the infantry.

Poster 2: depicts the images of Seaman Mark Jacobs Jr. and Harvey Jacobs, brothers and Alaskan Tlingit members from Sitka, who served in the U.S. Navy as code talkers.

Situated on the foreground are the two Jacobs brothers, with Mark Jr., on the left and Harvey on the right. They are standing at a slight right oblique (towards the viewer's left) and smiling at the viewer. Harvey is slightly behind and a foot taller than Mark. Only their upper torsos are visible and are cut off at the bottom by the foreground's bottom angular edge. Both brothers are wearing the U.S. Navy seaman's dress blue jumper with white striped collar and black tie. They wear their Navy blue sailor caps on their heads. The words, U.S. Navy, are stitched on the front of their caps.

Situated behind them on the foreground is a sketch of a U.S. Navy ship, the U.S.S. Laub, DD 613, a Benson-class destroyer sitting on the open ocean and facing towards the viewer's right. The ship's superstructure is sketched in a darker orange color which becomes lighter towards the hull and almost tan at the water's edge. Red brush highlights across the top third of the poster give it the appearance of age.

In 2019, five long-deceased Alaska Native servicemen were hailed by the state of Alaska for their life-saving efforts during World War II. Until recent years, however, the men's contributions were unknown. "Their orders were not to talk about it," said Ozzie Sheakley, an Army veteran and Tlingit leader. "They took those orders seriously." Alaska lawmakers passed a formal citation honoring the Tlingit men for using their Native language to help the military outsmart the Japanese with codes they could not break.

Poster 3: depicts an image of Mary G. Ross, a civilian mathematician and engineer working on the home front.

Ross is facing the viewer and her upper torso is visible above the foreground's bottom angular edge. She is wearing a white blouse and looking straight at the viewer. A long flower pin with three leaves is at the center of her blouse at the neck line.

Situated behind her on the foreground is a flight of three P-38 Lightning aircraft flying in formation from left to right across a cloud filled sky. Two of the planes fly slightly in front and below the trailing aircraft, which is larger and closer to the viewer. The top two aircraft are sketched in a darker orange color which becomes lighter towards the bottom and almost tan at the clouds. Red brush highlights across the top third of the poster give it the appearance of age. The bottom of the larger, trailing aircraft is slightly hidden by Ross's black hair.

In 1942, Lockheed Aircraft Company in California hired Ross as a mathematician. With two degrees in mathematics, she was among the many women hired to fill a role, traditionally held by men, while the men were away serving in the military during World War II. The company sent her to the University of California Los Angeles to get her professional certification in engineering – she became the first Native American woman and female engineer in Lockheed's history. Ross became one of the 40 founding engineers of the renowned and highly

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secretive Skunk Works project. Ross worked on designing fighters, to include the famed P-38 Lightning fighter, large planes, first evolution jets, and later rockets. Unlike many other women, who were forced out of their jobs as men returned from the war, Ross continued working for Lockheed until her retirement in 1973. In 2018, Ross was chosen to be depicted on the 2019 Native American \$1 coin by the U.S. Mint celebrating American Indians in the space program.

The bottom third of each poster consists of the tan, textured background. Situated immediately below the 45 degree angular bottom edge of the foreground is the poster phrase centered in large black text and spread across two lines. The phrase runs at the same angle to match the foreground's bottom edge. The first line reads, **Many Nations**, with the second line reading, **One fight!** The word "fight" is in a larger font than the rest of the phrase but in lower case and red text. The exclamation point is also in red and is canted to the right. It ends in a red star instead of a red period.

Centered below the poster phrase is the observance theme. It is in smaller, orange, capitalized block text which reads, HONORING THE PAST, SECURING THE FUTURE!

Immediately to the right of the theme is the Department of Defense 75th Anniversary Commemoration seal. The seal is multi-colored with the center consisting of a portion of the American flag. Superimposed over the flag is a dark blue letter capital "V" outlined in gold. Across the letter V is a blue banner with the word "REMEMBER" in capitalized letters and gold text. The center of the seal is surrounded by a narrow white ring and then a wide red ring containing 12 white stars. Surrounding the wide red ring is a wide dark blue ring. Superimposed on the top of the blue ring are the words, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA in capitalized letters and gold text. Superimposed on the bottom of the ring are the words, WORLD WAR II 75TH COMMEMORATION in capitalized letters and gold text. Outside the wide blue ring are 4 smaller consecutive rings of white and blue.

Centered immediately below the theme in smaller black script text is the observance title, National American Indian Heritage Month. At the bottom right corner of the poster footer and centered beneath the anniversary seal and in smaller orange font and capitalized text are the words, DEOMI's WORLD WAR II SERIES.