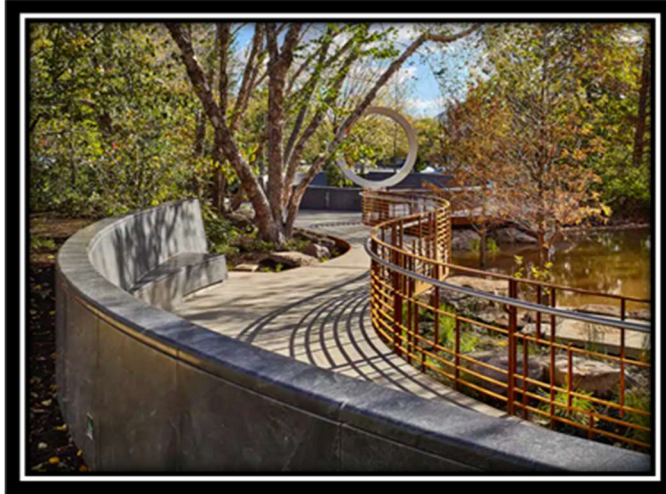


HONORING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF NATIVE AMERICANS

A NEW MONUMENT ON THE NATIONAL MALL IN WASHINGTON. D.C.

HONORS THE SERVICE OF GENERATIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS

359



The National Native American Veterans Memorial was unveiled on Veterans Day. (2020)

We are a nation of patriots who believe in the United States, its democracy, and our responsibility to preserve it for future generations. We acknowledge those who have served in the armed forces as the greatest patriots of all. Though we celebrate those who dedicate themselves to defending our nation, many Americans are unaware of the exceptional service performed by American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native veterans.

"It's an article of faith in Indian country that Native Americans serve at a greater rate than any other group," Kevin Gover, the director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and a citizen of the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, told NPR.

"When people bring their memories and bring their prayers to a place, they make it sacred," he said. "We wish for this to be a sacred place, not just for Native Americans, but for all Americans."



The monument was designed and cast by Harvey Pratt, a Marine veteran and member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma who served in the Vietnam War. (see more on the next page)

While it's not safe to travel now, there are plans to sanctify the site when COVID cases drop and safety precautions can be relaxed.

This monument marks the first time that Native Americans will be recognized on a national scale for their service to the U.S. military, Smithsonian Magazine reports.



The monument honors Native Americans from every branch of the military

“Native peoples have served in the United States military since the American Revolution and continue to serve at one of the highest rates per capita of any population group,” wrote Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch in the November issue of Smithsonian magazine. “I have always thought that you can tell an enormous amount about a nation by what it chooses to remember. This memorial and others to veterans, both on the National Mall and around the United States, are vital corners of our national memory.”



The monument was designed and cast by Harvey Pratt, a Marine veteran and member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma who served in the Vietnam War. Pratt told the Smithsonian that he hopes the site will become “a place of strength, power, healing and spirituality” where visitors can “pray for their family, for their loved ones that are in the military, they’re going to pray for ancestors that were in the military, they’re going to pray for their grandchildren [who] will be in the military.”



Native Americans have volunteered and served in higher percentages than any other ethnicity

If you are interested in additional information *[please copy the below link and paste it into your browser:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TG5FtvRfeV4&feature=emb_logo)*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TG5FtvRfeV4&feature=emb_logo



SUMMARY

THE MEMORIAL

Taking up the charge given by Congress, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian has established a National Native American Veterans Memorial on the grounds of the museum on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Opened to the public on Veterans Day 2020, this tribute to Native heroes recognizes for the first time on a national scale the enduring and distinguished service of Native Americans in every branch of the U.S. military.



THE DESIGN

An elevated stainless-steel circle balanced on an intricately carved stone drum, the design of the National Native American Veterans Memorial is simple and powerful, timeless and inclusive. The design incorporates water for sacred ceremonies, benches for gathering and reflection, and four lances where veterans, family members, tribal leaders, and others can tie cloths for prayers and healing.

The memorial creates an interactive yet intimate space for gathering, remembrance, reflection, and healing. It welcomes and honors Native American veterans and their families, and educates the public about their extraordinary contributions.



THE DESIGNER

A distinguished group of Native and non-Native jurors unanimously selected the design concept *Warriors' Circle of Honor* by Harvey Pratt (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma) from among more than 120 submissions. Pratt is a self-taught artist whose works include themes of Native American history and tradition and the Cheyenne people. Born in El Reno, Oklahoma, Pratt credits his parents and teachers for encouraging his artistic pursuits and respect for veterans. A veteran himself, Pratt served in Vietnam from 1962 to 1965 as a U.S. Marine in Air Rescue and Security stationed at Da Nang Air Base. He is recognized by the Cheyenne People as an outstanding Southern Cheyenne and was inducted as a traditional Peace Chief—the Cheyenne Nation's highest honor.



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HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM WHAT APPEARS TO BE AUTHENTIC WEBSITES
I CANNOT ENSURE THAT ALL THE DATA IN THIS ARTICLE IS ACCURATE AND CORRECT.