



AMERICAN INDIAN & ALASKA NATIVE VETERANS MONUMENT

HONORING THE HIGHEST REPRESENTATION PER CAPITA OF MILITARY SERVICE

Timeline of Events

National Campaign Kickoff 2014

Nov. 10, 2014, the day prior to Veterans Day, our national campaign, *SPONSOR AN AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE VETERAN*, begins!

For current information go to:

www.AIANveteransMonument.com



2006 Seeking Funding Began

Excerpt from one letter seeking support funding:

"We would like to share with you one very simple fact ... you will find surprising ... and disturbing: *There is no federal recognition or official memorial anywhere to the lives given by American Indians in American wars* ... thousands of lives sacrificed by America's first people, mourned by their families and loved ones, has gone unrecognized ... until now.



It is with deep pride and excitement that we are writing to share with you that an unprecedented project is underway to establish the first official memorial site for American Indian veterans at a national cemetery site in the United States. It is time for a national memorial honoring our brothers and sisters who have served in every branch of this nation's armed services, in all U.S. wars -- from the French-Indian War to the Revolutionary War; in World Wars I, II, and Korea; to the Vietnam War and in recent Middle East conflicts."

U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs 2006

On Feb. 23, 2006, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, William F. Tuerk, sent a letter of approval for the concept of the American Indian Veterans Memorial/Monument to Brigadier General Stan Brown, USAF (Ret.) who sat as Chairman of the Riverside National Cemetery, Monuments and Memorials Committee.



2006 Tribal Endorsements

Tribal Endorsements and Letters of Support came from various Tribal Nations and entities as they were informed about the plans for the national American Indian & Alaska Native Monument.



Tribal endorsements included:

The National Congress of American Indians; the National American Indian Veterans, Inc.; the National Indian Gaming Association; the California Nations Indian Gaming Association; Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations

A Unanimous Vote 2006

On Jan. 18, 2006, the Governing Board of Directors of the Riverside National Cemetery Support Committee unanimously voted to endorse/support the development and construction of the National Native American Veterans Memorial.

The designated location for the construction of the memorial/monument was proposed to be on the Field of Honor amongst the prominent Veterans Memorial and the POW/MIA Memorial.



The Riverside National Cemetery Support Committee was established in 1978 and is an all volunteer non-profit corporation comprised of 25 governing board members representing such groups as: Vietnam Veterans of America, Gold Star Wives, Society of Military Widows, Pearl Harbor Survivors, American Ex-POWs, Sons & Daughters In Touch, Veterans of Foreign Wars, veterans and interested citizens.



2005 Identify National Location

With the understanding that there was no existing national cemetery memorial to the First Americans who courageously served in the U.S. military, research continued to find a suitable location for such a monument.

The stated purpose for building the monument was:

- 1) To serve as a lasting memory to all American Indian and Alaska Natives who served in the U.S. military.
- 2) To serve as a teaching tool for all to learn of the great contributions of all AIAN veterans.



Find National Monument 2005

Due diligence was performed through a consulting firm to research if there were existing or proposed plans for a national Native American memorial. Over two years of research revealed there was neither an existing memorial nor plans to build such a monument in any national cemetery in the country.

Although no national monument existed to honor the great contributions of American Indians & Alaska Native veterans, the research showed there was broad based support in both the public and private sectors for the concept. Strong support was identified in Tribal communities as well as non-tribal communities, along with veterans' organizations nationwide and political representatives.



Riverside National Cemetery was identified as being the most active National Cemetery in the Nation and being the 3rd largest National Cemetery in terms of total land designated for use.

