



# **THE AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS MEMORIAL WILL SOON BE CONSTRUCTED AT THE RIVERSIDE NATIONAL CEMETERY**

The AIV Memorial will **Honor and Remember**  
**Native American Indian Men and Women who have Served**  
this Nation in its Armed Forces.

The AIV Memorial will **Signify** our Indigenous Service Members  
over 250 years of **Dedication** through military service  
**to our Democracy.**

The **RNC's Veterans Legacy Program**  
provides a Curriculum about our Military Heroes.  
It **Engages** and **Educates our Community's Youth and**  
**all Guests Entering its Holy Grounds.**

The **AIV Memorial has been Approved** by the  
Federal Government, Dept. of Veterans Affairs,  
**National Cemetery Administration.**

**WHEN REMAINING DONATIONS ARE RECEIVED,  
CONSTRUCTION CAN BEGIN IN 2021.**

**THE TOTAL NEEDED TO COMPLETE  
CONSTRUCTION IS \$ 500,000.  
WE ARE ASKING FOR 10 DONORS OF \$ 50,000 EACH.**

- Sculpting of the Memorial's Centerpiece Statue, THE GIFT, has been finalized, it is fully paid for, has been delivered to Riverside, and awaits installation.
- The Memorial's Entrance Statues, two TRIBUTE EAGLES are being readied and will be delivered in 60 to 90 days.
- The Memorial's VA/NCA required perpetual maintenance fund, \$50,000, has been paid and deposited by the VA/NCA.
- Pre-construction soil testing, engineering and landscape plans are paid for and complete.

**IT'S TIME -- HELP US START CONSTRUCTION IN THE EARLY FALL AND  
DEDICATE THE MEMORIAL BEFORE THE END OF 2021.**

**ALL DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED AND ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.  
IF YOU CANNOT DONATE, CAN YOU OPEN A DOOR TO OTHER CONTRIBUTORS?**



Two TRIBUTE EAGLE statues will be placed alongside the pathway leading To the AIV Memorial. The bronze eagles are by sculptor Mike Curtis.

## THE AIV MEMORIAL CONSTRUCTION TEAM

**American Indian Alaska Native Veterans Memorial Committee** has raised funding for over six years to reach the AIV Memorial Project's construction goal.

**The Riverside National Cemetery Support Committee**, a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Funds Administrator, works jointly with the AIANVM Committee. Past RNCS Committee donations have helped lead to construction of the RNC's three current major memorials, the National Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial, National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Memorial and the Veterans Memorial. It has also made significant donations towards construction of the AIV Memorial.

**BMLA Landscape Architecture's President, Baxter Miller**, has contributed significantly to downtown redevelopment projects, national memorials and regional parks and streetscapes. He and his staff have worked closely with the Committees named above to provide guidance and planning for the AIV Memorial.

**A. Thomas Schomberg, Sculptor of "The Gift,"** the centerpiece statue for the AIV Memorial, and Schomberg Studios Agent Cynthia Schomberg have supported and advised the Committees throughout the term of the AIV Project.

**Tilden Coil Constructors**, headquartered in Riverside, California, has been selected to act as the General Contractor for the AIV Memorial. The company's resources, experience, longevity and stability to fulfill all commitments has been proven based on its works displayed in the building of the three existing major memorials at the RNC.



THE GIFT centerpiece statue will be installed in the center of a 42-foot diameter circular plaza representing the Unity Wheel. Seating, styled from granite blocks, will be placed around the edge of the circle. Two TRIBUTE EAGLES will grace either side of the pathway entrance to the American Indian Veterans Memorial.

# THE AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS MEMORIAL WILL HELP TEACH VISITORS NEAR OR FAR OF THE HONORABLE HISTORY OF AMERICAN INDIANS' MILITARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE USA.

**Although many of America's Native Service Members are laid to rest at their reservations or other locations near their home, they too will be remembered by way of the Memorial at Riverside National Cemetery.**



Medal of Honor Recipient, USMC Staff/Sgt. Ysmael R. Villegas; Navajo Code Talker Joe Morris, Sr. (pictured as a youth and as an elder); US Army Pfc. Lori Piestewa – All are U.S. Military Heroes; Villegas and Morris are interred at the RNC.

Dept. of Veterans Affairs' records show that **Native Americans serve at a high rate** and have a **higher concentration of female Service Members** than all other Service Members.

**Our country's First American Indian woman to die in combat on foreign soil was U.S. Army Spc. Lori Ann Piestewa (Hopi).** She was killed in action near Nasiriyah, Iraq, on March 23, 2003. Eight other members of the 507th Maintenance Company from Fort Bliss succumbed to an ambush, and others were taken prisoner. Spc. Piestewa was laid to rest near her home in Tuba City, Arizona.

**2012 Research reported that California is populated by more American Indian Alaska Native Veterans than any other State.** And, the suburban area of Los Angeles is populated by more AIAN people than any other of our Nation's large cities.

**Ysmael R. Villegas, Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, was the first Riverside County resident to ever receive the Medal of Honor. When the cemetery opened in 1978, Villegas was the first veteran to be buried at the Riverside National Cemetery.** Twenty-one years later, in 1999, Tilden-Coil Constructors built the National Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial at the RNC. Today, four other MOH Recipients and a widow of another Recipient are interred on the RNC's holy grounds.

**Over 400 Navajo Code Talkers received communications training during WWII at the Marine's Camp Pendleton, California.** One of those recruits was 18 year old Joe Morris from the Navajo's Kin'lichii'nii Clan, He served in Guadalcanal and Guam, and was a participant in the Battle of Okinawa. **Code Talker Corporal Joe Morris, Sr. is interred at the RNC.**

TO DONATE Online:

[www.AIAnveteransmemorial.com](http://www.AIAnveteransmemorial.com)  
[www.rncsc.org](http://www.rncsc.org)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL:

**AIANVMC at 951.306.5656**  
**RNCSC at 909.957.3982**

TO DONATE By mail:

**Please state the payee as "RNCSC for AIVM"**  
**Send to P.O. Box 172, Beaumont, CA 92223**

