



# RIVERSIDE NATIONAL CEMETERY AMERICAN INDIAN ALASKA NATIVE VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

## CASE STUDY

### OUR MISSION

To raise funding to construct the first National Memorial to honor American Indian and Alaskan Native Veterans on the hallowed grounds of a National Cemetery.

> [WWW.AIANVETERANSMEMORIAL.COM](http://WWW.AIANVETERANSMEMORIAL.COM)

> P.O. BOX 202, BEAUMONT, CA 92223



#### BO MAZZETTI

RINCON BAND OF LUISEÑO INDIANS TRIBAL  
CHAIRMAN & AIANVMC HONORARY CHAIRMAN

“Honoring service members, past and present, is a tradition among American Indians. One that is important to tribes because of the large numbers of Indians who participated in all of America's foreign wars, and the close relationships formed with comrades in arms of all races.”



#### SHARRON SAVAGE

TRIBAL 1st DESCENDANT - L'ANSE BAND OF  
CHIPPEWA (OJIBWA) INDIANS, KEWEENAW BAY  
INDIAN COMMUNITY & AIANVMC CHAIRWOMAN

“My grandparents lived on an Oregon hillside at the end of a long dirt driveway. In 1944, their son was a U.S. Army private. Mother told how my grandparents recognized his death when they saw an Army jeep travel up that long driveway. Their son is buried at an American Cemetery in Italy. Today, we work to establish a Memorial to honor American Indian Warriors -- Veterans like Uncle Ambrose -- with a Memorial planned for the Riverside National Cemetery. Finally, there will be a sacred place for Native American Veterans, active military and generations of their family members and comrades in arms from every walk of life to reunion, reflect, heal and share their experiences.”

### UNIQUENESS OF OUR MISSION

The Riverside National Cemetery (RNC) is the **only** National Cemetery in the country that has a Memorials and Monuments Committee and where full scale monuments are allowed. *It will be a sacred place* -- a place to recognize and to teach of the over two hundred years of Native Americans' military service for the United States of America. As families, friends and dignitaries of every race and creed gather to remember our Nation's Veterans and to recall the history of U.S. military services, the Memorial will provide a quiet, peaceful place beside a lake to reflect on the service and sacrifices of its original warriors, American Indian Veterans.

### OUR VISION

The vision of the American Indian Alaska Native Veterans Memorial Committee (AIANVMC) is to **honor** American Indians' and Alaskan Natives' military service as we recognize the proud military history of America's first peoples. Most American citizens do not realize that --

- **One of every four Indian males serves as a military Veteran.** Indians have the highest record of service per capita of any ethnic group; 47% of tribal leaders are military Veterans.
- **27 American Indian men have received** the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- **American Indians were not drafted during WWI** since they were not citizens, so they volunteered. A grateful nation enacted legislation to grant them citizenship in 1924.
- **The first U.S. code talkers were Choctaw men serving in WWI.** The 19 Choctaw men "talking on the radio" have been credited with turning around the Germans' successful advances into France during the last six weeks of WW I.
- **During World War I and II, more than 44,000** American Indians served in the military, and over 40,000 Indians relocated from reservations to work in war industries. Many seasoned American Indian military members continued service during the Korean War, where an estimated 10,000 served. 90% of the 42,000 Indians who served in Vietnam were volunteers.
- **An estimated 42,000 American Indians fought** in Vietnam; 90% of these were volunteers.
- **Since the current actions began in Iraq, 42** American Indian Alaska Native service members have died in that country and 22 in Afghanistan.

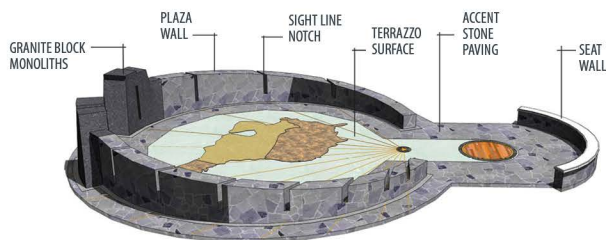
### OUR HISTORY

In September of 2005, an American Indian tribal leader attended the unveiling of a POW/MIA Memorial at the RNC. This tribal leader's brother died fighting in Vietnam, so he was very aware there was no federally recognized memorial to American Indian Veterans, not anywhere in the U.S. As he gazed across the nearby lake, he saw a rocky point extending into the water and thought, "That's where I'd like to see the monument for my people." He and a friend approached the National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D. C.; by early 2006, the NCA's provisional letter of approval for the site and a landscape plan was received by the Riverside National Cemetery Memorials and Monuments Committee. The leader and two friends began fundraising, but, unfortunately, were sidelined when illnesses overtook two of them -- followed by a declining national economy. Following the 2013 death of that inspired Indian leader, a new group of about 20 passionate individuals renewed the efforts to establish the Memorial by forming the American Indian Alaska Native Veterans Memorial Committee.



## DESIGN PLAN SKETCHES

### Main Plaza Design

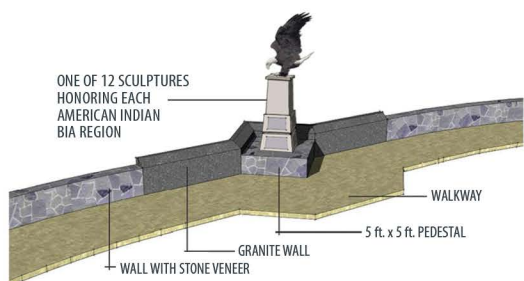


AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA

### View of Regional Statues Through Sitaline Notches



### Sample Design of Regional Sculptures Honoring Each American Indian BIA Region



THE EAGLE STATUES WILL BE SITED ALONG THE WALKWAY ENCIRCLING THE LAKE



### Monumental Statue

#### "THE GIFT"

DESIGNED BY A. THOMAS SCHOMBERG,  
SCHOMBERG STUDIOS.

Major sponsorships in amounts of \$500,000 or \$1 Million qualify to receive a limited edition of "The Gift" in appreciation for such generous donations.

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Successfully reaching out** to the Department of Veterans Affairs' National Cemetery Administration to receive written provisional confirmation that the Memorial's site and landscape and engineering plan can begin at the Riverside National Cemetery when construction costs are banked. The AIANVMC will also honor the NCA's request that a perpetual maintenance fund for the Memorial be on hand before construction begins.

- **Resolutions in support** of the Native American Veterans Memorial **at the Riverside National Cemetery** from the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN).

- **The Governor of the State of California**, Governor "Jerry" Brown, recognized the distinguished and honorable record of Native Americans in military service. Gov. Brown signed a proclamation declaring October, 2015, as **"Native American Veterans Month."** Gov. Brown stated it is fitting to have a monument placed at the Riverside National Cemetery, and urged fellow Californians to join him in supporting this effort.

- **AIANVMC took the first step to clarify and inform** citizens, tribal nations, governmental representatives and businesses that the AIANVMC's work to erect a Memorial for Native Veterans should not conflict with efforts underway by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian to create an American Indian Veteran monument on the grounds of the Museum. The AIANVMC and representatives from the Smithsonian's advisory committee recently met and will cooperate to encourage the completion of both a West Coast and an East Coast memorial – an action that will make it possible for many more citizens of this broad country to access Native Veterans' military service history and to honor their deeds.

- **Detailed construction plans** to facilitate construction of the Riverside National Cemetery (RNC) Memorial are completed.

- **The sculptor for the major work** to be placed at RNC has completed a half life size of the bronze monumental statue which will be rendered in twice life size for the Cemetery, "The Gift" by A. Thomas Schomberg. "The Gift" represents both the unparalleled United States military service of American Indians and Alaskan Natives while also symbolizing the bittersweet history of our Country's original people.

## FUTURE PLANS

- **The estimated construction cost** of the memorial, \$4,043,000 includes a 14' diameter plaza at the entry, the major monument "The Gift" and twelve eagle statues on obelisks, engraved walls and a kiosk with historical information, tied together around the lake by a walkway that meanders along the circumference of the water. Ten percent of the estimated costs will be raised for a "perpetual maintenance fund."

- **Total donations**, starting in October 2006 through yearend 2015 have been over \$560,000.

- **Expenses to date** have been to develop the landscape and engineering plans used to obtain provisional approval for the Memorial and incurred to reestablish the AIANVMC's fundraising activities. 2016 administrative costs will be covered by an award from the Riverside County Board of Supervisors' Community Improvement Development Fund. The work of the AIANVMC members is solely voluntary. Thus, donations will be held exclusively for construction of the proposed Memorial.

- **Having just displayed the half size bronze of "The Gift"** at the annual National Indian Gaming Association's Conference and Tradeshow, many leads for significant donations are in hand. AIANVMC members will meet with individuals, groups and tribal entities and submit grant applications and various other documents. We will continue to present at varied veterans' events, pow wows and Native cultural celebrations.

- **The AIANVMC is working to raise sufficient funds** by Veterans Day 2016 so construction can be begin early in 2017. A dedication ceremony will be planned after the approximate one year to 18 months of time it will take to complete the Memorial.

**The AIANVMC offers access to a website:** [www.AIANveteransMemorial.com](http://www.AIANveteransMemorial.com) -- that updates donors on recent awards and activities in which committee members continue fund-raising activities. The website includes historical facts and stories concerning American Indian and Alaskan Native veterans.

## SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO DONATE

- **Donations are tax deductible.** The AIANVMC operates under the 501(c)(3) corporation Riverside National Cemetery Memorials and Monuments Committee.
- **Donations exceeding \$100** will be prominently included on the website and at events in which the AIANVMC participates.
- **Businesses may elect to add the perched eagle logo** shown on this Case Statement in their advertising and packaging materials.
- **The American Indian Veterans Memorial Dedication program** will recognize donors in print and at the ceremony.
- **Regardless of the amount of your donation**, when you attend any event honoring veterans or any veteran's memorial or burial service, you will know that you have honored the memory of that veteran as he or she served alongside an American Indian or Alaskan Native service member when he or she also protected our country and its freedoms!

