



Photo Credit: National Museum of the Native America

4<sup>th</sup> Street and Independence Avenue SW, Grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian

# National Native American Veterans Memorial

Recognizing Native Americans in Every Branch of the US Military





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On November 11, 2022, the National Museum of the American Indian held a ceremony to dedicate the National Native American Veterans Memorial. The memorial is the first to focus on military contributions of Native American, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Designed by Native artist and veteran Harvey Pratt, the memorial depicts a circle resting on a carved stove drum.

The design of the memorial includes an elevated stainless-steel circle symbolizing Native American traditions in dance, storytelling, and prayer. It is balanced on an intricately carved stone drum and surrounded by water for ceremonies, benches for gathering, and lances where visitors can tie prayer cloths. The memorial provides a visual and audio experience. Continuous music plays throughout the memorial and includes thirteen Native American veteran songs from the Ojibwe, Menominee, Blackfeet, Ho-Chunk, Kiowa, and Lakota Nations featured on the Smithsonian Folkways recording “American Warriors: Songs for Indian Veterans.”

Today, more than 31,000 Native Americans, Native Hawaiians and Alaska Natives serve on active duty. More than 140,000 veterans identify as Native. Native Americans have served in the US armed forces in every major military conflict since the Revolutionary War.

The memorial is free to visit and open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.