

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN AFFAIRS

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A.I.V.A



CALIFORNIA



“SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE – ONE GOAL”

American Indians have participated with distinction in the US Military for more than 200 years. Their courage, determination, and fighting spirit were recognized by American military leaders as early as the 18th century.

By the 19th century they were seen as making substantial contributions through their military service and were on the blink of playing an even larger role.

An estimated 12,000 American Indians served in the United States military in World War I

“SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE – ONE GOAL”

By 1924 American Indians were given citizenship.

Many went back into the battle field at the outbreak of World War II (1941-1945)...44,000 Native American men and women served, out of a total population of less than 350,000

Battle-experienced troops from WW II were joined by newly recruited Native Americans to fight Communist aggression during the Korea conflict

Patriotism and courage emerged once again during Vietnam, more than 42,000 served, of these men and women 90% were volunteers

In the 1980s and 1990s many Native Americans saw duty in Grenada, Panama, Somalia, and the Persian Gulf

Native American Veterans as Warriors

As the 20th century came to a close, nearly 190,000 Native Americans served in the military

Historically, Native Americans have the highest record of service per capita when compared to other ethnic groups

WHY?

“They are not afraid to engage the enemy in battle”

“Native people are devoted to the survival of their people and their homeland, warriors will lay down their lives for the preservation of their culture”

“They have a Proud Warrior Tradition”

Native American Warrior

Warrior traditions is best exemplified by the following:

*Strength *Honor *Pride *Devotion *Wisdom *Bravery;
to include

Physical – Mental – Spiritual; of these spirituality is the most important.

Many traditional cultures recognize that war disrupts the natural order of life and causes a spiritual disharmony.

Cultural uniqueness of each tribe, clan, and family must be sought so that their current assess for healthcare are offered.

Many native veterans live in rural areas apart from many present day social, cultural and geographic populations.

Today over 1.9 million American Indian and Alaska Native veterans are expected to utilized a health care system.

Native American Veterans

What are they looking for in a Health Care System?

Cleansing ceremonies

Respect

Sweat Lodge

Talking Circles

Traditional foods

Circle of Life

Offerings

Traditional Healer

Culture

The Sacred Pipe

Medicine Pouch

Veteran Pow Wows

Red Road

Eagle feathers

Herbal Medicines

The Drum

Medicine Wheel

Nature Lessons

Elders

Gourd Dances

A Grateful Heart

Why veterans do not receive health care, IHS or VA

1. Want to solve problem on their own
2. Believe problem not serious enough
3. Believe treatment won't help
4. Worry about what others might think
5. Hospital/clinic too far away
6. Too much red tape
7. Encountered/feared racial prejudice

California Veteran Resources

- Employment and Job Training Assistance
- Unemployment Benefits
- Housing Assistance
- Health Care Needs
- U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits
- Support for Families
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- CalVet Home Loans
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment(PTSD)
- Traumatic Brain Injury(TBI)
- Hospitalization, Pharmacy and Prosthetic services
- Women and Minority Veterans
- Sexual Trauma Counseling
- Suicide Prevention
- Vet Center (Readjustment Counseling) Free
- Cemetery & Burial Benefits

Questions?



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