



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Museum of the American Indian Presents:
Patriot Nations: Native Americans in Our Nation's Armed Forces
Traveling Exhibition features the contributions of Native Americans

Coos History Museum
March 1, 2018 – Opening Ceremony, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Exhibit runs March 2, 2018 through April 29, 2018

Native Americans have served in every major U.S. military encounter from the Revolutionary War to today's conflicts in the Middle East in higher numbers per capita than any other ethnic group. **Patriot Nations: Native Americans in Our Nation's Armed Forces** reveals the remarkable history of Native American veterans through art, photography, and essay. The 16-panel exhibition documents 250 years of Native peoples' contributions in U.S. military history and remains on view from March 2, 2018 through April 29, 2018, at the Coos History Museum, 1210 North Front Street, in Coos Bay.

Patriot Nations: Native Americans in Our Nation's Armed Forces at the Coos History Museum was produced by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. The exhibit will begin with an opening ceremony on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 4:00pm. The opening ceremony is open to the public and will include an invocation and the Presentation of Colors by the Coquille Indian Tribe and The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. Light refreshments will be served. The exhibit will run March 2, 2018 through April 29, 2018, at the Coos History Museum.

"Tens of thousands of Native Americans joined the U.S. armed forces during World Wars I and II," said Herman J. Viola, curator emeritus of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and curator of "Patriot Nations." **"Forty-four thousand Native Americans served in World War II; the entire population of Native Americans was less than 350,000 at the time. They are Purple Heart recipients and Bronze Star**

medal honorees. Many have been recognized with the Congressional Medal of Honor, the United States' highest military award.”

Patriot Nations also calls attention to the creation of the National Native American Veterans Memorial on the grounds of the museum on the National Mall. Congress has charged the museum with building the memorial to give “all Americans the opportunity to learn of the proud and courageous tradition of service of Native Americans in the Armed Forces of the United States.” Working together with the National Congress of American Indian, Native American veterans, tribal leaders, historians and cultural experts, the museum will complete the memorial by Veteran’s Day 2020. For more information about the memorial, visit the website at: AmericanIndian.si.edu/NNAVM.

Patriot Nations: Native Americans in Our Nation’s Armed Forces was produced by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian. The exhibition was made possible by the generous support of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

About the National Museum of the American Indian:

The National Museum of the American Indian is committed to advancing knowledge and understanding of the Native cultures of the Western Hemisphere — past, present and future — through partnership with Native people and others. Follow the museum via social media on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. To learn more about the museum’s mission, visit AmericanIndian.si.edu.

About the Coos History Museum:

The Coos History Museum creates a better understanding of life in Coos County and Oregon’s South Coast, past and present. The Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and receives no direct government support. The museum is supported by donations, memberships, grants, museum store sales, special event rentals, and legacy/bequest gifts. The Coos History Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 10am to 5pm, with additional evening hours on the First Tuesdays of February to June, and August to December, from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. Second Sunday of each month is a FREE ADMISSION DAY. General admission to the Coos History Museum is free for CHM members, active duty military, and NARM members. The Coos History Museum is a Member of the North American Reciprocal Museum Association, the American Alliance of Museums, and the American Association for State and Local History. The Coos History Museum is located on the waterfront along Highway 101, adjacent to downtown Coos Bay, at 1210 North Front Street, Coos Bay, Oregon. For more information, contact the Coos History Museum at 541-756-6320 or visit the website at www.cooshistory.org.

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