

2013 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS MINORITY AFFAIRS



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MA-12 AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS MEMORIAL INITIATIVE

History: First adopted in 2013 as MA-12

Issue: 42,000 American Indians/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian volunteered to serve in Vietnam. More per capita than any other ethnic group in the country. American Indians/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiians have fought in all wars/conflicts since the Revolutionary War and have earned and should receive the full recognition of their service. There is no Monument/Statue recognizing their Contribution and Sacrifice on the National Mall of our Nation's Capital.

Background: American Indians/Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians have always been the stewards of American homelands before it was America. American Indians/Alaskan Native/Native Hawaiians have served in all Conflicts and Wars since the birth of America. Approximately 12,000 American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian served in World War I before they became Citizens of the United States, They served in World War I in an attempt to gain Citizenship of the United States, despite the fact they were original inhabitants. The native language of the Choctaw, Comanche, and Hopi Indian Tribes were first used in World War I to transmit field telephone messages. Approximately 25,000 volunteered to serve in World War II. The Comanche,

Creek, Chippewa, and Hopi Code Talkers used their own languages quite extensively in World War II. These Tribes were using their own language not a code. The Navajo Code Talkers developed a Code using their language. Their Code helped win the war in the Pacific. In record numbers, 42,000 servicemen in the American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian population exemplified strength, patriotism, honor, and dedication in all Branches of the Military during the Vietnam Conflict. American Indians/Alaskan Native/Native Hawaiian distinguished themselves with honor and bravery with three American Indians being awarded the Medal of Honor.

There should be a Monument/Statue of American Indian/Alaskan Native/Native Hawaiian servicemen to recognize their Contribution and Sacrifice during ALL WARS, the United States has participated in.

This is a very important objective to the American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian in gaining full recognition of their service to the United States of America

Resolved, That: Vietnam Veterans of America strongly encourages Congress to enact legislation to allow placement of an American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian Statue at the Education Center of the Vietnam Memorial on the National Mall. This will give the proper recognition to the American Indian/Alaskan Native/Native Hawaiian who proudly served in the Armed Forces of the United States, and recognize their sacrifice and service to their country.