

An Unspoken History

During World War I and World War II, over two hundred tribal members from South Dakota served in the United States military, using their language to send covert messages in the heat of battle. Code created with the use of tribal language was never cracked by enemy forces and remained a secret of the military after the fighting ended.

Upon leaving military service, Code Talkers were instructed not to talk about their irreplaceable roles in the war. All written reports about Code Talkers were classified. Veterans who served as Code Talkers returned to their homes, raised families, led their communities, never disclosing their contributions in changing the course of world history.

For those who served, using their language to defeat the enemy was not particularly heroic. They were soldiers who did their duty and served their country.





In 2008, Congress adopted the Code Talker Recognition Act directing the Secretary of the Treasury to strike Congressional Medals in recognition of the valor and dedication of the Native American Code Talkers to the United States Armed Forces.



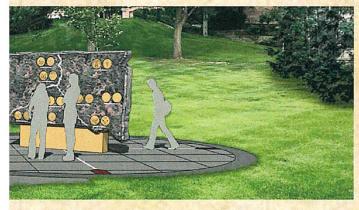
Nine Tribal Nations

were then recognized by Congress in sharing their borders with South Dakota, whose tribal members served as Code Talkers during World Wars I and II:

Crow Creek Sioux Tribe
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
Oglala Sioux Tribe
Rosebud Creek Sioux Tribe
Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate
Standing Rock Tribe
Yankton Sioux Tribe

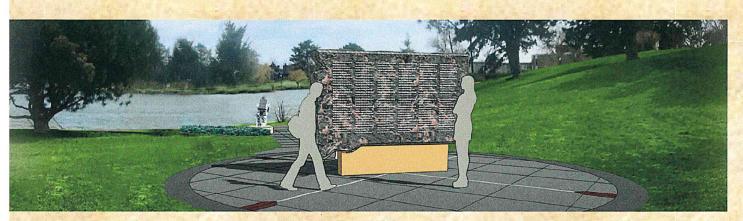
The Committee has selected Sioux Falls sculptor Darwin Wolf to create two life size bronze monuments of our Code Talkers, which will flank the entrance to the memorial.



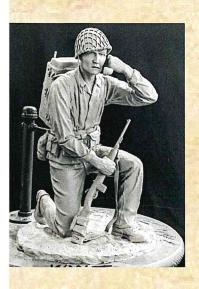


The monument will feature a granite wall in the shape of our state, with enlarged bronze renderings of the tribal medals embedded to present the tribes' locations.

The Memorial will stand as a reminder of this unique service, and be a source of pride for the descendants and tribal communities of those who served.



The names of each of our state's heroic Code Talkers will finally be seen, engraved in the granite for all time. They will be acknowledged alongside the brothers of their Tribes to bear witness to their selfless and unique service to their country.



Honor South Dakota's Code Talkers

with your tax-deductible contribution.

Code Talker Memorial Fund •
South Dakota Community Foundation

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