

Journal #3379

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**American Indians Serve in the U.S.
Military in Greater Numbers Than Any
Ethnic Group and Have...**

On this Memorial Day, as we remember those who have given their lives in service to our country while protecting the freedoms and ideals we hold dear, many of our fellow Americans remain unaware of the major contributions Native Americans have made to our nation's armed forces.

huffingtonpost.com

The **Washoe Tribal Burial Committee** invites all people to the Stewart Indian Cemetery on Monday May 25 at 10:00 am. for a small Memorial Day Event. Colors will be raised in honor of all Veterans and Service People.

Things You May Not Know About Memorial Day By [Barbara Maranzani](#) History Ch.

For nearly 150 years, Americans have gathered in late spring to honor the sacrifice of those who have given their lives in service to their country. What began with dozens of informal commemorations of those killed in the Civil War has grown to become one of the nation's most



solemn and hallowed holidays. From its earliest incarnation as “Decoration Day” to its modern-day observances, check out some surprising facts about the history of Memorial Day.

1. Memorial Day and its traditions may have ancient roots.

While the first commemorative events weren’t held in the United States until the 19th century, the practice of honoring those who have fallen in battle dates back thousands of years. The ancient Greeks and Romans held annual days of remembrance for loved ones (including soldiers) each year, festooning their graves with flowers and holding public festivals and feasts in their honor. In Athens, public funerals for fallen soldiers were held after each battle, with the remains of the dead on display for public mourning before a funeral procession took them to their internment in the Kerameikos, one of the city’s most prestigious cemeteries. One of the first known public tributes to war dead was in 431 B.C., when the Athenian general and statesman Pericles delivered a funeral oration praising the sacrifice and valor of those killed in the Peloponnesian War—a speech that some have compared in tone to Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.

2. One of the earliest commemorations was organized by recently freed slaves.

As the Civil War neared its end, thousands of Union soldiers, held as prisoners of war, were herded into a series of hastily assembled camps in Charleston, South Carolina. Conditions at one camp, a former racetrack near the city’s Citadel, were so bad that more than 250 prisoners died from disease or exposure, and were buried in a mass grave behind the track’s grandstand. Three weeks after the Confederate surrender, an unusual procession entered the former camp: On May 1, 1865, more than 1,000 recently freed slaves, accompanied by regiments of the U.S. Colored Troops (including the Massachusetts 54th Infantry) and a handful of white Charlestonians, gathered in the camp to consecrate a new, proper burial site for the Union dead. The group sang hymns, gave readings and distributed flowers around the cemetery, which they dedicated to the “Martyrs of the Race Course.”

3. The holiday’s “founder” had a long and distinguished career.

In May 1868, General John A. Logan, the commander-in-chief of the Union veterans’ group known as the Grand Army of the Republic, issued a decree that May 30 should become a nationwide day of commemoration for the more than 620,000 soldiers killed in the recently ended Civil War. On Decoration Day, as Logan dubbed it, Americans should lay flowers and decorate the graves of the war dead “whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land.” According to legend, Logan chose May 30 because it was a rare day that didn’t fall on the anniversary of a Civil War battle, though some historians believe the date was selected to ensure that flowers across the country would be in full bloom. After the war Logan, who had served as a U.S. congressman before resigning to rejoin the army, returned to his political career, eventually serving in both the House and Senate and was the unsuccessful Republican candidate for vice president in 1884. When he died two years later, Logan’s body laid in state in the rotunda of the United States Capitol, making him one of just 33 people to have received the honor. Today, Washington, D.C.’s Logan Circle and several townships across the country are named in honor of this champion of veterans and those killed in battle.

4. Logan probably adapted the idea from earlier events in the South.

Even before the war ended, women’s groups across much of the South were gathering informally

to decorate the graves of Confederate dead. In April 1886, the Ladies Memorial Association of Columbus, Georgia resolved to commemorate the fallen once a year—a decision that seems to have influenced John Logan to follow suit, according to his own wife. However, southern commemorations were rarely held on one standard day, with observations differing by state and spread out across much of the spring and early summer. It's a tradition that continues today: Nine southern states officially recognize a Confederate Memorial Day, with events held on Confederate President Jefferson Davis' birthday, the day on which General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was killed, or to commemorate other symbolic events.

5. It didn't become a federal holiday until 1971.

Americans embraced the notion of "Decoration Day" immediately. That first year, more than 27 states held some sort of ceremony, with more than 5,000 people in attendance at a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. By 1890, every former state of the Union had adopted it as an official holiday. But for more than 50 years, the holiday was used to commemorate those killed just in the Civil War, not in any other American conflict. It wasn't until America's entry into World War I that the tradition was expanded to include those killed in all wars, and Memorial Day was not officially recognized nationwide until the 1970s, with America deeply embroiled in the Vietnam War.

6. It was a long road from Decoration Day to an official Memorial Day.

Although the term Memorial Day was used beginning in the 1880s, the holiday was officially known as Decoration Day for more than a century, when it was changed by federal law. Four years later, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968 finally went into effect, moving Memorial Day from its traditional observance on May 30 (regardless of the day of the week), to a set day—the last Monday in May. The move has not been without controversy, though. Veterans groups, concerned that more Americans associate the holiday with first long weekend of the summer and not its intended purpose to honor the nation's war dead, continue to lobby for a return to the May 30 observances. For more than 20 years, their cause was championed by Hawaiian Senator—and decorated World War II veteran—Daniel Inouye, who until his 2012 death reintroduced legislation in support of the change at the start of every Congressional term.

7. More than 20 towns claim to be the holiday's "birthplace"—but only one has federal recognition.

For almost as long as there's been a holiday, there's been a rivalry about who celebrated it first. Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, bases its claim on an 1864 gathering of women to mourn those recently killed at Gettysburg. In Carbondale, Illinois, they're certain that they were first, thanks to an 1866 parade led, in part, by John Logan who two years later would lead the charge for an official holiday. There are even two dueling Columbus challengers (one in Mississippi, the other in Georgia) who have battled it out for Memorial Day supremacy for decades. Only one town, however, has received the official seal of approval from the U.S. government. In 1966, 100 years after the town of Waterloo, New York, shuttered its businesses and took to the streets for the first of many continuous, community-wide celebrations, President Lyndon Johnson signed legislation, recently passed by the U.S. Congress, declaring the tiny upstate village the "official" birthplace of Memorial Day.

8. Memorial Day traditions have evolved over the years.

Despite the increasing celebration of the holiday as a summer rite of passage, there are some formal rituals still on the books: The American flag should be hung at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day, then raised to the top of the staff. And since 2000, when the U.S. Congress passed legislation, all Americans are encouraged to pause for a National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. local time. The federal government has also used the holiday to honor non-veterans—the Lincoln Memorial was dedicated on Memorial Day 1922. And, while its origins have little to do with fallen soldiers, the Indianapolis 500 has certainly become a Memorial Day tradition of its own—this year marks the 102nd time the race will be run to coincide with the holiday.

[Learn History of Code Talkers at Cherokee Nation Veterans Center](http://nativenewsonline.net)

nativenewsonline.net

White House Press Release - **President on Poverty**

(opening got chopped.

e water resources, and is home to important service sector and manufacturing hubs. Despite this critical role in our nation's economy, too many Americans in rural areas are not sharing in our nation's economic growth. In 2013, 6.2 million Americans in rural areas lived in poverty, including about 1.5 million children. Moreover, in far too many of these communities, high rates of poverty have persisted for generations: over 300 rural counties have had poverty rates of over 20 percent in every Census since 1980.

While the fight to eliminate poverty is far from over, the 2014 *Economic Report of the President* documented that federal programs designed to reduce poverty and promote opportunity have cut poverty by more than one-third over the past 50 years. This report also shows that poverty in rural areas fell by nearly half between 1967 and 2012, compared to about one-quarter in urban areas.

Federal programs have played a central role in this decline, and this is especially true for rural child poverty. This report shows that:

- The Federal tax and transfer system, including programs like refundable tax credits, Social Security, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and housing assistance lifted about 9.0 million rural people out of poverty in 2013, including about 1.6 million children.
- Refundable tax credits (the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the refundable portion of the Child Tax Credit) have the largest anti-poverty effect on child poverty lifting about 4.1 million urban and nearly 600,000 rural children from poverty.
- Programs like Social Security and SNAP have profound impacts on the well-being of the poorest rural children, reducing rural child deep poverty by nearly one-half and

about 30 percent respectively. [\[1\]](#) Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits are particularly important for rural children since many live with parents with a disability, or receive survivor benefits. The impact of SNAP on deep poverty rates is also larger in rural areas than in the country as a whole.

Federal antipoverty programs continue to effectively reduce poverty. In the Great Recession, actions by the Obama Administration and Congress helped to substantially alleviate poverty.

- During the Great Recession, poverty increased 4.5 percentage points before accounting for taxes and transfers; however when all taxes and transfers are considered—including those, like the EITC and SNAP, that were strengthened by the Recovery Act—poverty rose only 0.5 percentage point.
- Improvements to the safety net during the Great Recession lifted 4.0 to 5.5 million people across the nation out of poverty *each year* between 2009 and 2012. These programs, including the EITC, SNAP, and Emergency Unemployment Compensation, all substantially reduced poverty. For example, in 2013, refundable tax credits lifted 4.7 million children out of poverty, and SNAP lifted about 2 million children out of poverty.
- Without Federal tax and transfer programs like the EITC, SNAP, and Social Security, child poverty in rural areas would have been more than 70 percent higher over the 2009 to 2011 period.

In addition to the safety net's dramatic impact on reducing hardship among urban and rural children alike, a growing body of evidence shows that Federal investments that provide assistance to low-income children provide very large long-run returns. Increasing the resources available to poor children and their families improves children's education, health, and earnings outcomes later in life. In many cases these benefits are so sizeable that increases in tax revenues due to higher earnings alone may offset most or all of the program costs.

- In addition to improving health outcomes, access to Medicaid early in life increases earnings once workers are in their mid-20s and also increases educational attainment. [\[2\]](#)
- A long literature documents that the EITC increases employment among single mothers. Recent research shows the credit can further benefit children by improving health outcomes in infancy and improving academic performance when children are in elementary and middle school. [\[3\]](#) These medium-term findings suggest that the credit will increase future earnings in adulthood as well.
- Access to SNAP improves early health outcomes for children. The program also provides long-term benefits in the form of increased high school completion and higher economic self-sufficiency in adulthood.

- Investments in early education increase children's educational attainment and earnings later in life, while some studies also show reduced involvement with the criminal justice system.
- Housing assistance programs that enable families to move to lower-poverty neighborhoods improve health outcomes for adults and teenage girls in the short and medium run. Over a longer horizon, moving to a lower-poverty neighborhood increases children's college attendance and earnings in adulthood.

Yet despite the progress of the past 50 years, there are still far too many Americans living on the outskirts of hope. President Obama recently remarked, "In order to ensure that all Americans are able to reach the first rung on the ladder of opportunity, we must continue to invest in the types programs that we know have worked to produce our successes to date."

The President has laid out an agenda that would do just that – make the investments needed to promote opportunity and reduce poverty in the near and long term. These include:

- Reversing the sequestration cuts that would affect programs like Head Start, Pre-K development grants, Housing Choice Vouchers and Homeless Assistance Grants, job training, and rural infrastructure—programs that have been shown to produce high return investments in the productivity of America's future workforce.
- Making permanent the 2009 expansion of refundable credits and preventing a tax increase on 16 million working families with children.
- Supporting state efforts to expand Medicaid. Expanding Medicaid would substantially improve coverage in rural areas, as nearly two-thirds of uninsured rural individuals live in states that elected not to expand their Medicaid programs under the ACA and about one million rural residents fall into the so-called "coverage gap," with incomes too high to be eligible for their State's Medicaid program but too low to be eligible for tax credits to purchase Marketplace coverage.
- Increasing the minimum wage, providing a needed boost to the working poor and reducing poverty.
- Improving access to higher education to better prepare our workers for the 21st century economy. To help students access college and build their skills, the President has proposed improving the American Opportunity Tax Credit and making two years of community college free for hardworking students.
- Preventing the harmful cuts to the safety net proposed by the Republican budget, such as in the SNAP program. The Administration has worked with states to ensure that low-income households that are eligible for SNAP are able to access this important nutrition assistance. Between 2009 and 2012, the latest year for which data are available, the percentage of individuals eligible for assistance that received SNAP increased from 72 percent to 83 percent. Because SNAP benefits decline gradually as

earnings rise and a large share of able-bodied adults receiving SNAP also work, ensuring that the program is accessible helps working households and those returning to work make ends meet.

- Protecting Social Security retirement and disability insurance programs, which provide critical assistance to millions of American families and lift 1.2 million rural children out of poverty.
- Leveraging technology to improve access to services. Inadequate access to services is a notable challenge in many rural communities. Programs like HHS's Rural Child Poverty Telehealth Network Grant Program and USDA's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program are testing new ways to use telehealth technologies to link rural children with specialized health and human services that may not be available locally.
- Ensuring that federal agencies work together and with external partners in the most effective ways possible, such as the actions of the White House Rural Council's Rural Impact effort to accelerate policy innovations, raise awareness, and increase investments in areas of rural child poverty.

As President Obama has stated, "A child's course in life should be determined not by the ZIP code she's born in, but by the strength of her work ethic and the scope of her dreams." In many rural places, that ZIP code equates to decreased access to critical services, fewer educational opportunities, and limited job choices. This report examines the background and trends of poverty in rural areas, including comparisons of the different measures of poverty between rural and urban areas, as well as a discussion of the impact of safety net programs on rural poverty. This report also discusses actions that the Obama Administration has taken and proposed to ensure that all families have an opportunity to climb into the middle class.

#

[1] Deep poverty is defined as living below 50 percent of the poverty line.

[2] David Brown, Amanda Kowalski, and Ithai Lurie. 2015. "Medicaid as an Investment in Children: What is the Long-Term Impact on Tax Receipts?" NBER Working Paper 20835; Sarah Cohodes, Daniel Grossman, Samuel Kleiner, and Michael F. Lovenheim. 2014. "The Effect of Child Health Insurance Access on Schooling: Evidence from Public Health Insurance Expansions." NBER Working Paper 20178; Laura Wherry, Sarah Miller, Robert Kaestner, and Bruce Meyer. 2015. "Childhood Medicaid Coverage and Later Life Health Care Utilization." NBER Working Paper 20929; Bruce Meyer, and Laura Wherry. 2012. "Saving Teens: Using a Policy Discontinuity to Estimate the Effects of Medicaid Eligibility." NBER Working Paper 18309.

[3] Raj Chetty, John N. Friedman, and Jonah Rockoff. 2011. "New Evidence on the Long-Term Impacts of Tax Credits," Statistics of Income Paper Series. <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-soi/11rpchettyfriedmanrockoff.pdf> ; Hilary Hoynes, Doug Miller, and David Simon. 2015. "Income, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and Infant Health." American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, 7(1): 172-211.

I'm pleased to announce that the 45th **National Wildlife® Photo Contest** is now open for

entries! This annual contest is one of our staff's favorite traditions, and I hope it will become one of yours, too.

Whether you're using professional digital cameras, film, smartphones or tablets, it's possible to capture compelling images that can have a profound impact. When you share your photos with us, you're helping raise awareness about the natural world and inspiring people to protect the wildlife we all cherish.

Entering your photos not only gives you a chance to win top honors and prizes and have your work showcased across NWF.org and in *National Wildlife*® magazine, but also helps you protect species by showcasing the beauty of wildlife and inspiring the world to care and to act.

I look forward to seeing nature through your eyes. Thank you for participating, and for your dedication to wildlife and wild places.

[Click here to get started today!](#)

Best, Lisa Moore, Editorial Director, National Wildlife

[Protect Sacred Oak Flat — “We remember those who sacrifice and defended our...”](#)

“We remember those who sacrifice and defended our people—we recognize our great leaders and their respect for those who know freedom. We must guide our...”

apachestronghold.tumblr.com

- [Apaches Fight Mining Company Over Land | Originals | msnbc](#)



[Oak Flat—once part of an Apache reservation—is considered sacred space by the local tribe but it was awarded to a mining company through a defense bill in 20...](#)

[youtube.com · Apr 12, 2015](#)

• [San Carlos Apache Chairman Terry Rambler OAK FLAT](#)

TESTIMONY

On November 23, 2013, San Carlos Apache Tribal Chairman Terry Rambler testified in front of the Senate Energy & Natural Resource Subcommittee, on the Southea...

youtube.com · Nov 24, 2013

VIDEO: Rescuing Nepal's Relics THE UPSHOT

Since the April earthquake, teams have braved landslides and aftershocks to document the damage to Nepal's antiquities as well as begin efforts to secure and restore them.

Making Computer Science More Inviting: A Look at What Works

By CLAIRE CAIN MILLER

A new prize aims to recognize colleges that succeed in attracting women into information technology, a field where they remain underrepresented.

Rare Indian Burial Ground Quietly Destroyed for Million Dollar Houses

A 4,500-year-old American Indian burial ground—one of the richest and best preserved found in California in the past century—has been paved over for a... gizmodo.comBy Sarah Zhang

Native Seeds/SEARCH Updates for May 2015

Native Seeds/SEARCH is excited and proud to unveil a new online portal for exploration of the rich crop diversity maintained by the NS/S seed bank. The [ADAPTS](#) platform is designed to connect you with varieties in the NS/S collection that are most relevant to your unique needs. Are you a gardener in Phoenix looking for watermelon varieties from locations with similar climates, or a farmer interested in high elevation beans? [ADAPTS](#) can help point the way.

ADAPTS was developed with generous grant funding from the Gila River Indian Community and represents part of a larger effort by NS/S to develop resources for climate change resilience in the Greater Southwest. Most of the information provided by **ADAPTS** *has never before been available to the public*, so this represents an enormous expansion of public access to information about the NS/S seed bank collection. To get started, please visit the [ADAPTS home page](#); the [FAQ](#) page provides more details and discusses plans for further development.

*In Guatemala, Indigenous Woman Sues Multinational Company for Husband's

Murder Jeff Abbott,
Truthout:



The quest for justice by one indigenous Guatemalan woman for the murder of her husband by private security forces of a Canadian company's subsidiary transcends borders. The trial in Canada has paved the way for other indigenous

communities to seek restitution from multinationals for human rights violations. [Read the Article](#)

THERE ONCE WAS A DINEH TEACHING AT BIG MOUNTAIN BUT THIS ONE CAME FROM ONE OF THE TRADITIONAL MATRIARCH NAMED, ZHONNIE CHII KEEDINIIHII:

"IT WAS TOLD THAT SOMEDAY A NEW TIME WILL COME ABOUT AFTER WE HAVE: LOST MOST OF OUR LANGUAGE, LEFT OUR IDENTITY, LEFT OUR CULTURAL FOODS, LOST RECOGNITION TO OUR ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECOLOGY THAT WE ONCE BELONGED TO, NO HONOR FOR THE LAWS OF VERY-OLD-AGE ELDERS, AND STOPPED GOING TO THE ANCIENT SHRINES TO MAKE SACRED OFFERINGS."

ZHONNIE THE MATRIARCH SAID HER ANCESTORS CALLED THIS TIME: 'Łaa' Nááhwedéésí'dzáá góh', A TRANSITIONING PERIOD INTO A STRANGE NEW ENVIRONMENT.

Bob Tregilus: As expected, [Congressman Mark Amodei](#) has introduced HR1484 into Congress--a bill which will SELL OFF Nevada's wondrous and open public lands to private interests such as foreign mining companies and welfare ranchers like Cliven Bundy. If HR1484 passes, fences, locked gates, and no trespassing signs will begin to pop up all over the place as one of the first provisions in the State resolution that lead to HR1484 states: "[T]he public lands included in the initial phase must be managed for long-term maximization of net revenue...". Read: Sell the lands to maximize revenue. Please sign the [Friends of Nevada Wilderness](#) petition to Congressman Amodei to keep our public lands public. Once YOUR public lands are sold off, there's no going back folks! Keep Nevada wild and free, and open for everyone one to enjoy!

[Keep Nevada's public lands in public hands--ACT NOW!](#)

Petition: I believe in keeping Nevada's public lands in public hands and disagree with HR1484. Giving away Nevada's public lands would result in a significant loss to all Americans and would.....nevadawilderness.org

Geoff Ellis: DOJ Assistant Attorney General Peter Kadzik stated in a letter transmitting the proposed bill, "The Department of Justice is committed to ensuring equal access to voting for Native American voters. We believe that the enclosed proposal would address serious voting obstacles faced by citizens who are members of Indian Tribes...." **Tribal Equal Access to Voting Act of 2015**

Tweet WASHINGTON—On Thursday the U.S. Department of Justice proposed legislation to Congress designed to guarantee equal voting rights for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Many Indian reservations and Alaska Native Villages... [nativenewsonline.net](#)

Dear TRPA E-News Recipients,

This E-News will keep you up to date on the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's initiatives and efforts. Join us as we work to build a better future for Lake Tahoe.

Thank you from the TRPA team. ... [See More](#)

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Circle of Blue/The Stream: The Global Rundown

Municipalities in **South Africa** may soon be required to devote money to water infrastructure, while the **United States** federal government may soon have more power to limit pollution in the nation's surface waters. Refugees from **Burundi** making their home in **Tanzania** are experiencing a cholera outbreak. Glaciers in the **Antarctic** have seen a sudden increase in melting since 2009.

"We could spend a lot of money to massively treat the water that we drink, but it makes a lot more sense to protect the source." – Elizabeth Ouzts, spokesperson for Environment America, on a new rule under the Clean Water Act that President Obama is [expected to announce in the coming days](#). (New York Times)

In the coming days, President Barack Obama is expected to [announce a new regulation under the Clean Water Act](#) that has been in the works for over a year. The regulation would expand the federal government's ability to limit pollution in the nation's surface waters. The rule is being met with heavy opposition from business interests such as farmers, the oil and gas industry, and golf courses, and the House of Representatives already passed a bill to block it, with Republican congressmen calling it a example of 'executive overreach'. *New York Times*

[Obituary: Lamar Elliot Northrup - News4Nevada](#)

11-13-1949 ~ 5-18-2015 Lamar Elliot Northrup passed away at the age of 66 at his home in Winnemucca, NV on May 18, 2015. Lamar was born November 13, 1949 at Hop
news4nevada.co