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Natives & the Military: 10 Facts You Might Not Know

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Seminar on small, self-contained nuclear reactors

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This is Elsie Apachito. At 100 years old, she is the oldest Taos Pueblo military veteran. She was a surgical nurse in the Women's Army Corps for four years during World War II. This photo was taken in 2014 when she was 96 and wanted to attend Memorial Day ceremonies in the plaza at Taos Pueblo. At present, she is in a nursing care facility in Albuquerque being treated for broken ribs and other injuries suffered in a fall. We are assured, though, she is doing well and was hoping she could have attended today's Veteran's Day ceremonies at her village. Photo by Rick Romancito © The Taos News

Natives & the Military: 10 Facts You Might Not Know by [Vincent Schilling](#) [Jan 9, 2014](#)

By the end of the WWII, 24,521 reservation Indians and another 20,000 off-reservation Indians had served in the military

Considering American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans have served in every branch of the U.S. Military for well over the past 200 years, It goes without saying that their efforts and histories of distinguished services should be recognized.

In addition to any recognition, while studying the facts surrounding Native Veterans through such reports as released by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or the historical accounts of War Department officials, you will discover some interesting facts about Native Veterans outside the fact that American Indians serve at a high rate and have a higher concentration of female servicemembers.

Here are 10 interesting and surprising facts we found:

An Active Role in the Civil War

According to an extract from '*A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion by Frederick H. Dyer*' In 1862, several Indian Home Guard Regiments were organized and expedited in Indian territories and utilized for several years by the Union Army during the Civil War. Statistics show just fewer than 3,600 Native Americans served in the Union Army during the war.

Two Civil War Generals of Distinction

Stan Watie (Cherokee) joined the Confederate Army to become a notoriously fearsome General and the last Confederate General to Surrender. Ely S. Parker (Seneca) whose father fought in the War of 1812, enlisted into the Union Army rose to become General and served on the staff of Ulysses S. Grant.

12,000 for World War I

When World War I started, American Indians were not considered U.S. citizens, but that did not stop approximately 12,000 Natives from volunteering to serve in the U.S. military. In addition, four American Indian soldiers serving in the 142nd Infantry of the 36th Texas-Oklahoma National Guard Division received the Croix de Guerre medal from France.

Native Women Doing Their Part

During WWI, 14 American Indian women served in the Army Nurse Corps, with two of them serving overseas. Mrs. Cora E. Sinnard, (Oneida) and Charlotte Edith (Anderson) Monture (Mohawk) both served as Army Nurses in France at a military hospital to lend their skills toward the war efforts overseas. Monture, who referred to her service as 'the adventure of a lifetime,' died in 1996 at the age of 106.

A Draft Could Have Been Avoided

War Department officials have stated, that during WWII, if the entire population had enlisted at the same rate American Indians did, Selective Service would have been unnecessary. According to the Selective Service in 1942, at least 99 percent of all eligible Indians, healthy males aged 21

to 44, had registered for the draft. The annual enlistment for Native Americans jumped from 7,500 in the summer of 1942 to 22,000 at the beginning of 1945.

In a file photo U.S. Marines of the 28th Regiment of the Fifth Division raise the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, on Feb. 23, 1945. Joe Rosenthal, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his immortal image of six World War II servicemen raising an American flag over battle-scarred Iwo Jima, died Sunday (2014). He was 94.

The Ten Percenters

By the end of the WWII, 24,521 reservation Indians and another 20,000 off-reservation Indians had served in the military effort – or 10 percent of the American Indian population. This combined figure of 44,500 represented one-third of all able-bodied Indian men from 18 to 50 years of age. In some tribes, the percentage of men in the military reached as high as 70 percent.

800 Native Women Warriors Strong

Throughout WWII, nearly 800 American Indian women served in the U.S. military. Elva (Tapedo) Wale, Kiowa; Corporal Bernice (Firstshoot) Bailey of Lodge Pole, Montana, **Beatrice (Coffey) Thayer** and Alida (Whipple) Fletcher are just a few of the servicewomen that served during WWII. These brave women served with such units as the Army Corps, the Army Nurse Corps and as WAVES, ‘Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service.’

90 Percent Volunteer Through Vietnam Era

Throughout the Vietnam Era, American Indians enlisted in the military to the tune of more than 42,000 – 90 percent of them were volunteers, with the others serving through draft selection. After Vietnam, Natives have continued to serve in high numbers. Since that time, Native servicemembers have seen military action and combat in Grenada, Panama, Somalia, the Gulf War, and in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn (OND).

Navy Warriors

According to the 2012 VA report, nearly 50 percent of Native servicemembers served in the Navy in comparison to 14 percent of all other servicemembers of other ethnicities.

Five Years and You’re Out – Less for Officers

The VA also states that approximately 70 percent of Native servicemembers served five years or fewer and about 27 percent serve between six and 20 years. In terms of officers, only 6 percent of Native servicemembers were officers, while other ethnicities are roughly 2.5 times that rate.

[Crossing From Asia, the First Americans Rushed Into the Unknown](#)

By CARL ZIMMER

Three new genetic analyses lend detail, and mystery, to the migration of prehistoric humans throughout the Western Hemisphere.



Joseph Galata Wow! Incredible! Mystifying! Mind boggling!

Archeologists in Nevada have now determined bones foundare those of a person who died 11,000 years ago here in northern Nevada - AND the DNA is that of a group of Siberian’s

13,000 years ago !!!!

And archeologists in Borneo have determined that 40,000 year old cave art there ... is exactly similar to the 40,000 year old cave art in France! Mystifying!!!!

Water Shorts

[Tahoe Regional Planning Agency recognizes nine projects with Best in Basin Awards](#) [By Tahoe Daily Tribune, 11/3/18](#)

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) recognized nine exceptional projects completed in 2017 with Best in Basin awards. Now in its 28th year, TRPA's Best in Basin awards program each year showcases projects around the lake that demonstrate exceptional planning, implementation, and compatibility with Tahoe's natural environment and communities.

[Klamath Tribes drop lawsuit over endangered sucker fish](#)

By Shomik Mukherjee, Times Standard, 11/8/18 The Klamath Tribes have dismissed a pending lawsuit against a federal agency over several endangered fish species in the Upper Klamath Lake, but the tribes maintain the agency's actions have brought the fish close to extinction.

[Mikkelsen, Tribes at odds over water talks; forms 'coalition of the willing'](#)

By Holly Dillemoth, Herald and News, 11/8/18 Department of Interior official Alan Mikkelsen — who spent the week in Klamath Falls and Medford — said he will return to the Basin next month to continue water talks, but that he has no plans to reach out to the Klamath Tribes based on their last interaction.

[Federal Water Tap](#)

80: Percent chance that El Nino conditions develop this winter. The climate pattern, marked by warming of the eastern Pacific Ocean near the equator, [generally means](#) warmer-than-average temperatures in the Pacific Northwest and cool, wet conditions in the Southeast. The strength of those effects depends on the intensity of warming. The forecast is for a weak or moderate El Nino. ([NOAA](#))

116,000 acre-feet: Amount of oilfield wastewater, or “produced water,” generated in New Mexico in 2017. That is enough water to supply 464,000 average New Mexican households for a year, or just over 1.2 million people. Those averages are based on U.S. Geological Survey figures for household water use and Census Bureau figures for household size. ([EPA](#))

6,079: Confirmed cases of Legionnaires’ disease in the United States in 2015. ([CDC](#))s Briefs

Legionnaires’ Disease Report

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [released a detailed report](#) on Legionnaires’ disease cases in 2014 and 2015: data on the states where it is most common, who is most susceptible, where they contracted the disease, and what the fatality rate is.

Legionnaires’ disease, a pneumonia-like illness caused by breathing contaminated water droplets, is the deadliest waterborne disease in the United States and the rate of cases has increased 4.5 times since 2000.

About 9 percent of cases are fatal.

The disease is most common in people over age 50 and is most frequently contracted during the summer and early fall. Most reported cases came from the Great Lakes states and the mid-Atlantic region (Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York).

“The geographic differences are of interest,” Laura Cooley, the head of the CDC’s Legionella team, told Circle of Blue. “There’s more to learn about why there are differences. Do diagnoses differ, or are there differences in the environment?”

EPA Awaits Court Decision on Perchlorate

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is still waiting to hear whether a federal district court has granted the agency’s request for a six-month extension to set limits on perchlorate in drinking water, an EPA spokesperson told Circle of Blue.

The agency is under a court-ordered October 31, 2018, deadline to regulate perchlorate, a chemical component in explosives and some fertilizers. It is naturally occurring and manmade.

California Water Storage Request

A dozen California Republicans [wrote a letter](#) to the leader of the Bureau of Reclamation asking that dam and canal projects in their state be prioritized for funding in fiscal year 2019.

Projects mentioned include expanding the storage capacity of Los Vaqueros and Shasta reservoirs, fixing a Friant-Kern canal that has been damaged by sinking land (which, in turn, was caused by farmers pumping groundwater during dry periods), and building the Sites and Temperance Flat dams.

Most of these projects are in initial assessment phases and still need significant funding if they are to be completed. Reports

Testing Drinking Water for Unregulated Contaminants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released the [first batch of results](#) from its latest round of testing drinking water for unregulated contaminants.

The agency requires all utilities that serve more than 10,000 people to test for 30 contaminants. (A select number of smaller utilities also participate.) Contaminants in this two-year testing cycle include manganese, a metal, and microcystin, which is the toxin produced by cyanobacteria, a.k.a. harmful algal blooms.

Between 600 and 800 systems have reported results so far. The only unregulated contaminant that was found above health guidelines in more than one percent of systems was manganese, in eight of 776 systems.

Results will be updated and added quarterly. The data are used to inform development of national drinking water regulations.

Oilfield Wastewater in New Mexico

New Mexico agencies and the EPA published a [draft analysis](#) of how the state can alleviate some

of its water stress by reusing the large volumes of wastewater being produced in the oil fields of the Permian basin.

One of the country's driest states, New Mexico now ranks third in oil production thanks to fracking in the booming Permian shales. Oil production generates massive amounts of what the industry calls "produced water," or what comes out of the well. Produced water is the soup of chemicals and water that are injected underground to fracture or stimulate the well, combined with water and chemicals that are already present underground.

In 2017, New Mexico generated 37.8 billion gallons (116,000 acre-feet) of produced water.

The report describes state and federal regulations that apply to reusing produced water for oilfield operations, agriculture, municipal use, and industrial use.

The report acknowledges that future droughts are expected to be more severe, but it mentions neither climate change nor the expectation that the region will likely become increasingly drier as temperatures rise. The problem for water availability is not just drought — it is growing aridity.

In context: [America's Oil Boom Can Not Happen without Groundwater](#)

FERC Dam Safety Review

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission could improve its analysis of safety risks at 2,500 commission-regulated dams, according to a [Government Accountability Office report](#).

In reviewing 42 dam inspections, the GAO concluded that federal regulators take a narrow view, considering safety measures at a particular dam. What would be better, the report argues, is using accumulated data from all dam inspections to identify common problems within the entire FERC portfolio. Doing so requires a change in FERC's databases and recordkeeping.

FERC agreed with the recommendations.

The report was requested by Congress after the main spillway at Oroville Dam, California's tallest, broke in February 2017. Regulated by FERC, the dam was undergoing relicensing evaluation at the time.

Improving Army Corps Construction

The Army Corps of Engineers needs to define what it means by "deferred maintenance" for river navigation projects and it needs to spend funds more efficiently so that construction does not drag for decades, according to a [Government Accountability Office report](#).

The inefficiency is due in part to how projects are funded — incrementally, through the annual budget process. The report examined alternate ways of funding projects, such as concentrating on one project at a time, which reduced waste in a hypothetical scenario.

Army Corps leadership agreed with the recommendations.

Senate PFAS Hearing

On November 13, a Senate subcommittee will [hold a hearing](#) in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to hear from local, state, and federal officials about their response to the state's PFAS problem.

A specialist with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality who [wrote a report six years ago](#) that warned of the state's exposure to PFAS, will testify. The department has barred Bob Delaney from speaking with the media.

The hearing is being convened by Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI), who organized a similar event in Congress in September.

In context: [In Senate PFAS Hearing, Government Officials Say Regulatory Response Will Take Years](#)

EPA Enforcement Trends

The EPA's internal watchdog [will begin an investigation](#) into the agency's enforcement actions.

The inquiry will look at the years 2006 through 2018 to identify differences in how regional offices enforce violations of various environmental statutes. Are Clean Water Act penalties decreasing or increasing? Are certain regional offices taking less action?

Lame-Duck Congress Agenda

When they return to Congress after their election campaigns, representatives will have some substantial work to consider before the end of the session.

One item is the farm bill, which was not reauthorized before the September 30 deadline. Both chambers passed bills, but they have proven irreconcilable, so far. The House bill is viewed as more partisan.

Another consideration is the [2019 spending bill](#) for the Department of the Interior and the EPA. The House version contains riders aimed at California water policy that the Senate version does not. The riders would hamper legal challenges to a planned water supply tunnel through the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta and complicate a state plan to change flow requirements for the San Joaquin River.

Members are in conference to sort out differences in the bills.

Climate Shorts

[This teen activist dropped out of high school to focus on climate](#)

ZOYA TEIRSTEIN

[Landmark children's climate lawsuit hits new roadblock](#)

DAN SPINELLI

[What Washington and Oregon taught us about climate action on the ballot](#)

KATE YODER

[The election cleared the way for bold climate policy in these 6 states](#)

ERIC HOLTHAUS

Just FYI

**Join Us for a Presentation on
SMALL, SELF-CONTAINED NUCLEAR REACTORS PROVIDING CARBON-FREE ENERGY
FOR THE SECURITY OF THE NATIONAL POWER GRID**

Sponsored by National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Southern Nevada

**Featuring
Colonel Robert E. Frank (USAF-Retired)
Chairman, Energy Security Action Committee (ESAC), NevadansCAN**

When: Thursday, November 15, 2018 3:45 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

Where: Innevation Center at Switch 6795 S. Edmond St., 3rd Floor Las Vegas, NV.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Program Overview: The role of micro, small, and medium sized reactors in national security applications, and how carbon-free nuclear technology can be used to decentralize energy interdependence to insure survival of natural disasters and terrorist threats. How Nevada can become the National Engineering and Test Center for Carbon Free Power, directly applicable to military operations. How Creech AFB can become the pilot site for Department of Defense test program for a micro-reactor to power its mission, independently from the civilian power grid.

NevadansCAN is a Non-Profit Grassroots Citizens Action Network. Our goals are to defend and protect the United States Constitution, the Nevada State Constitution, and traditional American values by promoting grassroots activism in the legislative process.

Email: Info@NevadansCAN.com Paid For Nevadans Citizen Action Network
NevadansCAN 848 N Rainbow Blvd #464, Las Vegas, NV 89107

Las Vegas stadium, other project subcontractors seek veterans

Dozens of construction workers clad in fluorescent vests working on the Las Vegas stadium project once wore military uniforms.

– “ **Growing the future: High-tech farmers** are using LED lights in ways that seem to border on science fiction” (WaPo)

The digital collection **A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875** contains many resources that provide insight into the formative years of the United States government and the creation of the military. The *Journals* of both the [House of Representatives](#) and the [Senate](#) as well as the [Annals of Congress](#) are available in this collection. The *Annals*, which cover the years 1789 to 1824, were not published contemporaneously, but were compiled between 1834 and 1856, using the best records available—primarily newspaper accounts. Speeches in the *Annals* are paraphrased rather than presented verbatim. Also, the [American State Papers](#) contains the legislative and executive

documents of Congress during the period 1789 to 1838, including documents concerning [military affairs](#).

- The [George Washington Papers](#) is the largest collection of original Washington documents in the world. It encompasses Washington's correspondence, letterbooks, commonplace books, diaries, journals, financial account books, military records, reports, and notes for the period 1741 through 1799.

Unity Graduate Celebration

Each Spring, The Center celebrates the academic accomplishments of our Asian American/ Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Black, Latinx and Lavender (LGBTQIA+) students through the Cultural Graduate Celebrations. This fall, we are joyous to celebrate our students' unique stories and contributions to the University of Nevada with one all-inclusive celebration- Unity Graduate Celebration.

Friday, December 7, 2018 | 6 PM - 8 PM | Joe Crowley Student Union



[Geoff Ellis](#)

On Friday afternoon, Nov. 9, 2018 we lost my beloved brother, **Gregory Vincent Ellis**. Greg was born in Reno, Nevada at the Washoe County hospital to Delorse Astor Ellis and Perial Ellis. Further details are pending with funeral services. I'm planning to have Greg's services at the Stewart Community Baptist Church on Saturday, Nov. 17, 2018 with a lunch afterwards. If your a relative, a friend of Greg's or our family, I'm looking forward at seeing you.!

Respectively,
Geoffrey Brent Ellis
(530) 448-1823