

**Journal #5443 from sdc 4.20.23**

*Billy Frank Jr. Philosophic Statement*

*Ancient mysteries of Lake Oconee*

*Sean Sherman Named in Time 100 Most Influential People of 2023*

*BLM offering tours of Indian Lakes off range corrals in May*

*Tribe calls Kotek's gaming stance "A hostile act"*

*This Native CDFI Is Leading a Movement to Reclaim Lost Tribal Land*

*Ready to Volunteer - You can make a difference - [AMERICORPS.GOV](https://www.americorps.gov)*

*National Crime Victims' Rights Week Engagement Meeting*

*Sacred lands in Arizona to be destroyed*

*Water Flows Uphill Toward Money*

*Quantitative Study of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in STEM Subjects*

*Can Burning Man Pull Out of Its Climate Death Spiral?*

*Manufacturing Victory - Electronic Field Trip*

*Colorado River cities and farms face "dire" tradeoffs with new federal review*

*The big idea*

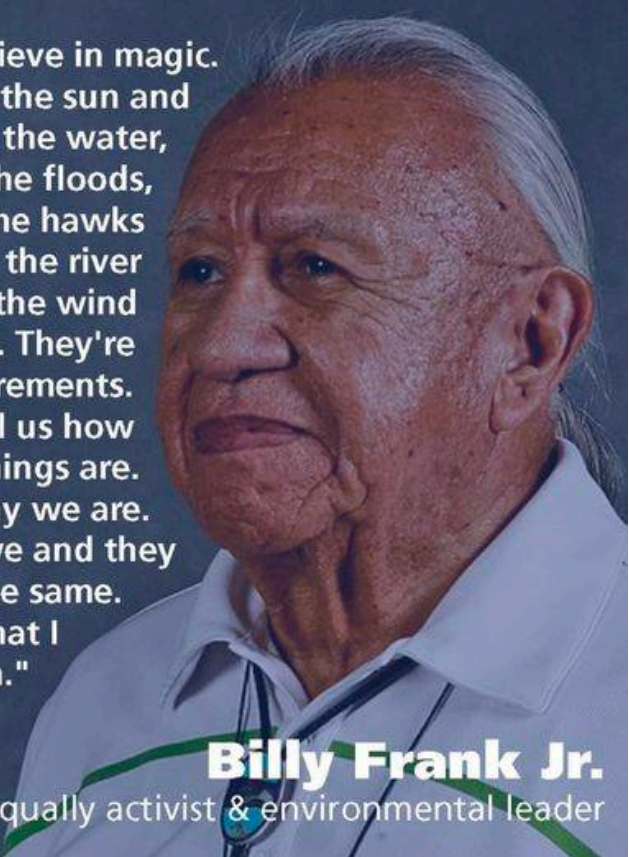
*'A key part of the solution': Tribe, U.S. officials reach deal to save ...*

*US turns to tribes to help Arizona survive Colorado River cuts*

*Pi'tamaka - also known as "Brown Weasel Woman"*

*Where Did Chaco Canyon's Timber Come From?*

*Learn about Joining a Service Academy*

A portrait of Billy Frank Jr., an elderly man with white hair, wearing a white polo shirt and a necklace with a blue stone. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera.

"I don't believe in magic.  
I believe in the sun and  
the stars, the water,  
the tides, the floods,  
the owls, the hawks  
flying, the river  
running, the wind  
talking. They're  
measurements.  
They tell us how  
healthy things are.  
How healthy we are.  
Because we and they  
are the same.  
That's what I  
believe in."

**Billy Frank Jr.**  
Nisqually activist & environmental leader

## Ancient mysteries of Lake Oconee

By Sarah Beth Ariemma

Lake Oconee Breeze May 3, 2012



Artifacts of the Oconee area were recovered during a previous excavation. One artifact, a Clovis projectile point, is estimated to be 12,000 years old. The artifacts are currently on display at the Putnam Museum for public viewing. Ancient Native American pottery, tools and pipes as well as a 'chunky stone' or hockey puck-like stone that the ancient Creeks used in a game similar to Lacrosse are pictured as well.

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In this article Sean talks about the broader meaning of his work and his awards in de-colonizing the world.



[mspmag.com](http://mspmag.com)

[Sean Sherman Named in Time 100 Most Influential People of 2023](#)

[The Minneapolis chef behind Owamni is in the mix with the likes of Joe Biden and Lil Nas X.](#)



[kolotv.com](http://kolotv.com)

[BLM offering tours of Indian Lakes off range corrals in May](#)

[The Bureau of Land Management is offering people a free public tour of the Indian Lakes off range wild horse and burro corral in Fallon](#)

**Tribe calls Kotek's gaming stance "A hostile act against Oregon tribes"**

<https://kcby.com/news/local/tribe-calls-koteks-gaming-stance-a-hostile-act-against-oregon-tribes>

**This Native CDFI Is Leading a Movement to Reclaim Lost Tribal Land**  
<https://nextcity.org/urbanist-news/this-native-cdfi-is-leading-a-movement-to-reclaim-lost-tribal-land>

AMERICORPS.GOV

[Ready to Volunteer?](#)

[You can make a difference.](#)

**National Crime Victims' Rights Week Engagement Meeting**

As part of elevating the voices of survivors and engaging them to effect change, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are hosting a hybrid stakeholder engagement event on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to better serve victims of environmental crime. DOJ and EPA invite you to participate in this interactive discussion about how to close the gap in providing services and compensation to victims of environmental crimes. **Registration closes April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

Keynote speakers include:

- Vanita Gupta, Associate Attorney General, U.S. DOJ
- David Uhlmann, Deputy Assistant Administrator and nominee for Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, U.S. EPA

Details for this hybrid event (in person and via Zoom):

**Date:** April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Time:** 1:00PM – 4:00PM ET

**Location:** EPA East, 1201 Constitution Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20460

**To register before April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023:**

- In-person registration: Email Angela Green at [angela.green@usdoj.gov](mailto:angela.green@usdoj.gov)
- Virtual registration: Email Mary Brody at [brody.mary@epa.gov](mailto:brody.mary@epa.gov)

Registration is REQUIRED. Zoom link will be sent following registration.

Please note that in-person attendance is located at a federal building and will require security screening, so please allow for extra time if attending in person. It is recommended that you arrive no later than 12PM ET.

If you or the representative for your organization requires language interpretation services, please contact [Mary Brody](#) no later than **April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. We will try to accommodate your request and will contact you with the logistical information for Zoom participation. Unfortunately, we cannot offer foreign language interpretation in person, only on ZOOM. American Sign Language will be available in person and on Zoom.

If you have any questions that you would like to submit in advance, please include those in your email registration. Also, feel free to submit any questions about the event to either [Angela Green](#) or [Mary Brody](#).

We hope that you can join us for this important event. We thank you for the work you do to support crime victims.

**Background:**

Each April we celebrate [National Crime Victims' Rights Week](#), the annual nationwide observance coordinated by the [U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime](#) (OVC), which is designed to promote victims' rights, educate the public about victims' rights, protections and services, and honor crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. This year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 23 - 29, 2023, and the theme is "Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect Change."

Crime victims are important in environmental crimes investigations and prosecutions. The [Environmental Crime Victim Assistance Program](#) introduced in April 2022 by the Attorney General, and the Administrator of the EPA is an important part of elevating the voices of environmental crime victims to better engage them and effect change. To better serve victims of environmental crime, DOJ and EPA invite you to participate in an interactive discussion about how to close the gap in providing services and compensation to victims of environmental crimes. This event will also provide you with a better understanding of who the victims of such crimes are and the relationships between environmental crime and environmental justice.

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**Sacred lands in Arizona to be destroyed**

Decades of profit-first policy have privileged corporate interests over Indigenous communities' rights — and it could happen again.

**The Biden administration is on track to allow the destruction of the Chí'chil Bildagoteel Historic District of Arizona, a high desert oasis sacred to multiple Indigenous tribes.** Win Without War has been pushing back since 2021, when Trump fast-tracked the transfer of thousands of acres of land to — and we can't make this up — a UK-Australian mining company notorious for polluting Papua New Guinea, causing an environmental disaster in Brazil that left 19 dead, and blowing up Juukan Gorge, a treasured 46,000-year-old Aboriginal site in Australia.

**Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack would ignore this devastating history and allow Rio Tinto Resolution Copper Mining to carve a roughly 1,115-foot deep, 1.8 mile-wide CRATER in the area, commonly called "Oak Flat."**

Luckily, it's not a done deal. One of the last steps to finalize the transfer is the publication of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Right now, the decision of whether to publish is ALL up to the discretion of Secretary Vilsack. **This administration is responsive to EXACTLY the kind of public pressure we bring to bear — and that's why Sec. Vilsack needs to hear from you today.**

**[We can't trust Rio Tinto to ensure this land gets the protections it requires. Add your name to urge Sec. Vilsack to withhold publication of the impact statement and ensure the preservation of Oak Flat for future generations!](#)**

You might be asking: What does this issue have to do with national security? That'd be a good question for John McCain. He inserted a midnight rider on the land swap in a must-pass defense funding bill in 2015, upending a prohibition on mining in the region that President Eisenhower put in place decades earlier.

Senator McCain's attempt to undermine Indigenous rights in the name of “national security” reminds us: **The fights for Indigenous rights, environmental justice, and peace are one and the same.**

For too long, U.S. foreign policy has exploited Indigenous people and their lands. It happened when the United States waged an all-out war on Native peoples across the country. It happened when the government instigated coups against Indigenous leaders in Latin America. And it's *happening right now.*

The San Carlos Apache Tribe, the Tonto Apache Tribe, the White Mountain Apache Tribe, the Yavapai-Apache Nation, the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, the Gila River Indian Community, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Hopi Tribe, and the Pueblo of Zuni have been fighting to defend Oak Flat for decades. *Today, let's join them.*

At Win Without War, we believe in people power. That's why we're launching this action with partners from across the movement. It'll drive incredible impact — that means faster results and, hopefully, even bigger victories. **Sec. Vilsack isn't expecting to hear from tens of thousands of people in the coming days, but if everyone reading takes action right now, he will — so help us send a message that's too loud to ignore.**

**[We CAN save Oak Flat — if we act together, fast. Send a note to Sec. Vilsack now: Withhold publication of the impact statement and #SaveOakFlat!](#)**

Together, we can make a difference and ensure that Oak Flat remains sacred and pristine for generations to come.

Thank you for working for peace, Annika, Sara, Shayna, and the Win Without War team  
[info@winwithoutwar.org](mailto:info@winwithoutwar.org)

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## **Water Flows Uphill Toward Money**

**Extract:** Here's a suggestion: No one should be allowed to settle in Arizona before visiting the Great House in Coolidge, remnants of Hohokam Indians whose desert-dwelling civilization thrived for a thousand years before mysteriously vanishing just before Columbus “discovered” America.

The Hohokam understood simple basics. To make the desert bloom, just add water. With stone

axes and sharp sticks, they built 210 miles of canals. The multistory Great House, part of a bustling mud-walled city, had a built-in astrolabe to keep tabs on the heavens and the seasons.

Nature, they knew, is smarter than man. It provides natural splendor, teeming game and rich food crops. If you get in its way, you're toast. No one has determined why their civilization collapsed so suddenly. Perhaps they elected a Kari Lake to lead them.

<https://www.rsn.org/001/water-flows-uphill-toward-money.html>

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## **Ideological Intensification**

**A Quantitative Study of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in STEM Subjects at American Universities by Mason Goad Bruce R. Chartwell**

*No matter what side of the fence you sit, this very academic report, provides a glimpse of some how some worlds are approaching "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" and may be helpful to your institutional negotiations and/or grantwriting. sdc*

**Extract:** By nearly every measure, language associated with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ideology has risen dramatically in STEM fields. Over the past decade, and for longer where data were available to assess it, DEI language associated with STEM keywords has become more prevalent on university websites and Twitter feeds. Outside the universities, the same trends are visible in science funding sites and funded research proposals, in the scientific literature and literature databases, and, to a lesser extent, scientific professional societies.

The rise of DEI language in the sciences has been driven largely by activists who argue that the sciences systematically exclude and marginalize women, along with designated racial minorities and identity groups defined by sexual orientation. The claim is that science is too white, too male, and too heterosexual, and that aggressive action must be taken to reverse this. Nearly the entire societal infrastructure that supports scientific research, including universities, funding agencies, scientific societies, accreditation boards, and, increasingly, scientific journals, has accepted this premise, reflected in the increasing use of DEI-associated language we have documented here.

The activists' aim is to radically transform the sciences by making all aspects of scientists' careers conform to the demands of DEI ideology. Training and education in the sciences, hiring of new science educators and researchers, decisions on research grants, accreditation, governance of research universities, and more are now being reshaped to meet the demands of DEI ideology. The ideological intensification over the past few years is now empirically evident. Only the future remains unknown. Yet if the ideology continues to intensify and be institutionalized, then the future of STEM, along with the rest of the academy, is almost certainly imperiled.

<https://www.nas.org/reports/ideological-intensification/full-report>

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## **Can Burning Man Pull Out of Its Climate Death Spiral?**

Excessive heat, ever fiercer storms, and a reliance on fossil fuels are becoming an existential crisis for the yearly festival in the Nevada desert.

<https://www.wired.com/story/burning-man-climate-death-spiral/>

## Manufacturing Victory - Electronic Field Trip

[Register](#)

**Session 1: 9:00 a.m. CT & Session 2: 1:00 p.m. CT** Watch live **Tuesday, April 25, 2023!**

Can't join us live? Select "Watch Later" when registering! After the Electronic Field Trip has aired on April 25, you will receive a link to view the recording and utilize in your classroom at your convenience.

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/manufacturing-victory>

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## [Native Spirit](#)

### **Colorado River cities and farms face "dire" tradeoffs with new federal review**

The federal review lays out the painful choices facing the American West after a two-decade drought and chronic overuse have left crucial lakes — the water supply for tens of millions of people — dangerously diminished.

Read in The Washington Post: [https://apple.news/AICUvC487T\\_G5iWqFXLzGLg](https://apple.news/AICUvC487T_G5iWqFXLzGLg)

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**The big idea** by Olivier Knox, WP's Daily 202, w/research by [Caroline Anders](#)  
**The federal government says failing to solve the Colorado River crisis isn't an option. Except it is.**

If you agree with The Daily 202 that part of the definition of politics is how a country organizes itself to allocate finite or even scarce resources, then it's hard to argue that tackling **the Colorado River crisis** isn't among **the most important political stories in America today**.

Here's how Deputy Interior Secretary Tommy **Beaudreau** put it Tuesday: "The Colorado River Basin provides **water for more than 40 million Americans**. It fuels hydropower resources in eight states, supports agriculture and agricultural communities across the West, and is a crucial resource for 30 Tribal Nations. Failure is not an option.

**But failure is very much on the menu of possibilities.** A two-decade drought and heavy dependence on the Colorado's dwindling waters has strained a century-old arrangement governing how much those states (and their massive agricultural infrastructure) can and should pull from the river.

Beaudreau's comments came as **President Biden's** administration released a review of the river's major reservoirs, laying out what my colleague Joshua Partlow called "the painful choices" policymakers now face.

### **THE UGLY MENU OF OPTIONS**

Amid the tables of numbers and technical jargon, in the draft environmental review, the three options the Interior Department proposes for consideration, expose the stark decision in coming months. One option would strictly follow water rights and give priority to major farming regions in California, such as the Imperial Valley, that stock supermarkets across the country with winter vegetables," Joshua reported.

That choice would let "a large part of the water supply of Phoenix and Los Angeles 'get taken virtually to zero,'" Beaudreau told Joshua in an interview.

*\* Another option would be "distribute up to 2 million acre-feet of cuts in water usage — more than 15 percent of the river's flow — in the same percentage across all users in Arizona,*

*California, and Nevada, an approach that would contradict a legal thicket of water rights that date back more than a century.*

(Helpful, from Joshua: “An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons, what it would take to cover an acre of land with one foot of water.”)

The federal government could also opt to do ... nothing. But “climate change and the drying of the West have put the reservoirs of Lake Powell and Lake Mead — the water supply for tens of millions of people — on a path toward **falling so far the dams could no longer produce hydropower or even to ‘dead pool,’ when water would effectively be blocked from flowing to the southern states,**” he reported.

The government should announce the way forward on cuts by late summer.

### **THE VIEW FROM ARIZONA**

Over at the [Arizona Republic](#), Brandon Loomis noted: “**The plan spells out proposals to modify a 2007 shortage-sharing agreement and will be open for public comment for 45 days.** If adopted this summer, it will affect dam releases starting next year.”

But the federal government still hopes the states and tribes can find some sort of consensus, Loomis reported. The affected states are Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

*“Representatives from the river states said they're making progress behind the scenes and are gaining confidence that they **can reach a deal that does not throw out the old legal priorities or completely cut off cities and others that don't enjoy the same legal priorities as many farmers,**” Loomis wrote.*

Back in 2007, federal and state officials agreed on water-use cuts that become more pronounced as Lake Mead — historically the country’s largest water reservoir by volume — drops against Hoover Dam, he reported, “but so far they have not kept up with the pace of losses.”

“Since 2000, **water demand and evaporation have outstripped the river’s flow by about 15%**, causing a rapid decline in storage and threatening power production and even the most secure of water rights downstream” of the dam.”

### **THE VIEW FROM CALIFORNIA**

“Ah, but what about the record snowpack in the West?” you ask, because you read the newspaper, so you know some officials have expressed hopes it’ll make the water crisis a little less dire. Over at the Los Angeles Times, Ian James sounded a cautionary note.

“Even after storms that have blanketed the Rocky Mountains with the largest snowpack since 1997, federal officials say the likelihood of **a return to dry conditions means the region still needs a plan** for apportioning additional water cuts if necessary over the next three years,” James wrote.

Beaudreau “pointed out that during more than two decades of drought, there have been wet years, such as 2011, followed by a return to dry conditions. The heavy snow this winter, he said, may push ‘the curve out six months or more,’” James reported.

### **THAT’S A SHORT RESPITE, NOT A SOLUTION**

Loomis provided the killer quote about the trade-offs, courtesy of University of Arizona law



professor Robert Glennon: "It would be unthinkable to say Phoenix is cut off so [California's Imperial Valley] can keep growing alfalfa" for export."

*Still no CO, WYO, NV or tribal views in this publication. sdc*

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**'A key part of the solution': Tribe, U.S. officials reach deal to save ...**

Apr 7, 2023 The Gila River tribe will get \$83 million for the pipeline project to reuse about 20,000 acre-feet of water per year, and \$50 million per year over three years not to use 125,000 acre-feet...<https://www.stgeorgeutah.com/news/archive/2023/04/06/a-key-part-of-the-solution-tribe-u-s-officials-reach-deal-to-save-colorado-river-water>

Apr 7, 2023 PHOENIX — Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs hosted a press conference on Thursday with federal, state and **tribal** leaders to announce a **historic agreement that will pay the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) \$233 million in exchange for the Tribe limiting its use of water from the Colorado River.** The conservation agreement includes funding for two conservation projects **Gila River** has planned that ...

<https://news.yahoo.com/gila-river-indian-community-receive-121109416.html>

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**US turns to tribes to help Arizona survive Colorado River cuts**

The Gila River Indian Community will leave water in Lake Mead, one of the Colorado's major reservoirs, which will help prevent mandatory statewide water cuts; the Colorado River Indian Tribes ...<https://grist.org/indigenous/colorado-river-arizona-tribes-wategila-river-conservation-deal-biden>

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**A Crisis In The Colorado**

- American Rivers, the conservation group that compiles the annual endangered list of waterways, released a new report that names the 277-mile stretch of the Colorado River that goes through the Grand Canyon as [the most endangered waterway](#) in the U.S. The group named drought, warm temperatures, and poor river management for its place on the list.
- "The Colorado River is on the brink of collapse and the Grand Canyon is in the crosshairs ... trying to solve the basin's water challenges by sacrificing the health of the Grand Canyon would be an utter tragedy," said Sinjin Eberle from American Rivers. "This is an all-hands-on-deck emergency."
- The White House is currently looking into how the Colorado River's water supply is divvied up among different states and Native American tribes. More restrictions, which are likely to be handed down any day now, will damage the fragile ecosystem and wildlife, not to mention the sacred sites scattered along its path.



[Native American Indians](#)

**"Pi'tamaka also known as "Brown Weasel Woman"** was born into the Piikáni Piegan Tribe of the Blackfeet Nation. She was the eldest of two sisters and two brothers. As a girl, she

began to show less interest in traditional female roles and more interest in hunting and the games her brothers played. Her father, a well-respected warrior of the tribe, indulged her interest and taught her to hunt and fight.

"She loved learning the ways of a warrior and soon gave up the work of the household in exchange for hunting buffalo with her father. During one of these buffalo hunts, the group of hunters encountered an enemy war party and when they retreated at top speed to escape their enemies, her father had his horse shot out from under him and he was injured. Although it was very dangerous, Brown Weasel Woman turned back, picked up her father and escaped. One of the bravest deeds a warrior could perform was to face the enemy while riding back to rescue someone who was left behind. So when she returned to camp, the people honored her for being courageous.

"Soon after, her mother became very ill and, because she was the oldest child, Brown Weasel Woman took over the chores of the household to help her mother. Although she was an excellent home maker, she did not have any interest in doing any of it. She enjoyed the men's activities of hunting and war much more. Although many of the men took an interest in her, she did not have any interest in having a boyfriend or becoming married.

"The turning point of Brown Weasel Woman's life came when her father was killed during a war party and her mother died soon afterwards. Brown Weasel Woman suddenly became responsible for her brothers and sisters. She took on the role as the head of the family which meant that she hunted for and protected her family. Because of this new responsibility, a widowed woman moved in to help with the household chores and to help teach her brothers and sisters.

"Brown Weasel Woman's first war adventure was against the Crows who had stolen some Blackfeet horses. It took the war party several days to get to Crow country, but when they arrived, the Blackfeet were successful at stealing many of the Crow's horses. Brown Weasel Woman stole eleven horses by herself. Although the Crows chased them for a while, the Blackfeet got safely back to their camp.

"On the way back to the camp, Brown Weasel Woman was on watch duty from the top of a butte, while the others rested in a hidden location. She saw two enemies approaching, and before she could reach the men to warn them of the danger, the enemies were ready to round up and steal their horses. Brown Weasel Woman ran down the butte with her rifle and grabbed the rope of the herd's lead horse to keep the rest from running away. The enemies saw that she was a woman and began to close in on her because they did not expect any trouble from her. Brown Weasel Woman shot the enemy who carried a rifle and forced the other one to turn and run. The men were very impressed by her courage of saving the horses and killing an enemy.

"During the summer, when the tribes gathered and the warriors told of their many adventures, the Piikáni chief told Brown Weasel Woman to share hers. This was a highly unusual thing for a woman to be asked, but after doing so, the chief bestowed upon her the name Pi'tamaka (Running Eagle) as a sign of respect and honor."

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## Learn About Attending a Service Academy



Join the offices of Sens. Rosen & Cortez Masto  
and Reps. Horsford, Titus, & Lee for a

# SERVICE ACADEMY INFORMATION SESSION

*Meet with representatives from the U.S. service academies  
& ask questions about the interview process!*

**Saturday, April 22, 2023**

**5 PM - 8 PM**

**RANCHO HIGH SCHOOL**

1900 Searles Ave, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Are you or a loved one a high school student interested in attending a military service academy?

My office is co-hosting an information session with the Nevada congressional delegation that will give you the chance to meet with representatives from the Service Academies, ROTC Programs, and representatives from our offices so you can learn more and ask questions.

The event is this Saturday at Rancho High School (1900 Searles Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89101).

RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-service-academy-information-session-tickets-597271574357>

