

**FREE**

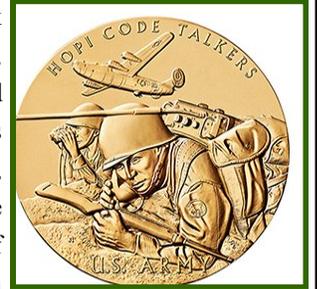
# Veterans Corner Newsletter

**FREE****Hopi Veterans Services: "Putting Hopi & Tewa Veterans First"**

## Hopi Code Talkers Recognition Day *April 23, 2015*

**Volume 5, Issue 4  
April 1, 2015**

On June 15, 1942, the eight Hopi Code Talkers, Franklin Shupla, Warren Kooyaquaptewa, Frank Chapella, Travis Yaiva, Floyd Dann, Charles Lomakema, Percival Navenma, and Perry Honani, Sr., were organized at Camp Rucker, Alabama, and assigned to the 81<sup>st</sup> Division, U.S. Army, the famed "Wild Cat Division". Subsequently the U.S. Army Air Force employed various Native Americans assigned to the Fifth Air Force flying B-24 Liberator bomber missions in the Pacific area. Two Hopis, Rex Pooyouma, assigned to the 380<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group and Orville Wadsworth, assigned to the 90<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, were later identified in 2010 as part of this secret network of communications team consisting of Sioux, Apache, Crow, Chippewa, Laguna and Acoma. Thus began the exploits of the ten Hopi Code Talkers whose secret military operations were not revealed until the early 1970's.



U.S. Congressional  
Gold Medal

This year the Hopi Code Talkers Recognition Day is scheduled for April 23, 2015, at the Hopi Veterans Memorial Center, near Kykotsmovi, AZ, and will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (MST). Keynote speaker will be Ms. Stephanie Birdwell, Director, VA Office of Government Relations, Washington D.C. There will be other speakers and a tentatively a short film will be shown highlighting the Hopi Code Talkers. A noon meal and lapel pins (limited quantity) will be provided for all attendees. We hope you can join us as we celebrate and honor our Hopi Code Talkers and other Native American Code Talkers on this special day.

These ten young men from their ancient villages on the remote mesas of northeastern Arizona used their Hopi language to transmit critical field communications that baffled Japanese intelligence and helped to turn the course of the war in favor of the United States since the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

According to military records, during their time of induction into the military, these simple Hopi men ranged in age from 20 years old to 38 years old. Most had a middle school or high school education, while two only had 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade education. One Hopi enlisted prior to the start of World War II. Two men were awarded Bronze Star Medals and one received the Purple Heart Medal. Following the end of World War II, all ten Hopi Code Talkers returned home safely with honorable discharges and military decorations.

As Hopi men, they resume their lives by having families, found work, continued with traditional farming and participated in Hopi ceremonies. They never spoke of their duties as Code Talkers, until later on in the 1970's when Navajo Code Talkers were identified as Code Talkers. Even then, the Hopi Code Talkers seldom talked about what they did as Code Talkers, since their Hopi tradition held that once your military duties were done, you left what you did or saw behind. Hopi believe killing is a last resort, but if done it times of war, you cannot bring it back into the Hopi society. For this reason Hopi men have gone through cleansing ritual to remove the "Tsa win duya" or sickness, illness or hurt, before they are allowed entry into their home village. This continues to be done today as military members return home. The last Hopi Code Talker passed away in October 2010.

As more and more Native American Tribes/Nations were being honored by their state and tribal governments as Code Talkers during World Wars I and II, the Hopi Tribe sought to recognize their own Hopi Code Talkers. In 2007, the Hopi Tribal Council formally recognized the eight Hopi Code Talkers assigned to the 81<sup>st</sup> Division. In 2008, the Hopi Tribal Council advocated for gold medals be awarded to the Hopi Code Talkers by the U.S. Government. In 2011, the Hopi Tribal Council formally recognized the additionally two Hopi Code Talkers assigned to the U.S. Army Air Force. Later on May 23, 2011, the Arizona State Senate recognized the Hopi Code Talkers by formal resolution. On March 21, 2012, Hopi Tribal Council passed a resolution declaring April 23<sup>rd</sup> of each year as Hopi Code Talker's Recognition Day to celebrate and honor the ten Hopi Code Talkers. Finally, on November 20, 2013, the United States Congress formally recognized all Native American Code Talkers, including the Hopi Code Talkers with presentation of a Gold Medal to the Hopi Tribe and Silver Medals posthumously to the next-of-kin of the Hopi Code Talkers.

We invite the public, color guards and other Tribes to join us in celebrating the legacy of all Native American Code Talkers who served during World Wars I and II. For more information on the event contact (928) 734-3461 or email to [ETalas@hopi.nsn.us](mailto:ETalas@hopi.nsn.us).

## Hopi Royalties Attend Piestewa Fallen Heroes Events

On March 22 & 23, 2015, Miss Hopi, Alexie James, her 2nd Attendant, Paula Elmer, and Lori Piestewa Post #80 Princess, Brenda Dacawyma and her Attendant, Josephine Cook, attend the annual “*Piestewa Honoring Our Fallen & Their Families*” dinner and “*Sunrise Service*” at Piestewa Peak.

The evening dinner was hosted at the American Legion Post #41 building. Ms. Mary Kim Titla was the mistress of ceremonies and began the program with the posting of colors by various color guard units, including Lori Piestewa Post #80 members and the Hopi Royalty contingent. Brigadier General John Burk, Arizona National Guard, was the keynote speaker. Introduction of former Prisoner of Wars (POW) in the audience were honored and recognized, followed by a Remembrance Table presentation conducted by the Scottish American Military Society. Dinner was served while flute music was played by Wes Ricks and a song titled “One More Warrior” was performed by the renowned band Clan-Destine. Presentation of mementos were given to Gold Star Mothers and family members by the Arizona for Piestewa Committee members. A special presentation was conducted when the audience were provided pen lights and room lights were turned off as over 300 names of military members from Arizona were read aloud who died in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2003 to 2013. At the conclusion of the evening event TAPS was played to salute and render honors to the military fallen.

The next early morning, the Sunrise Service was conducted at the base of Piestewa Peak on the grounds of the Phoenix Park, with Ms. Titla as the mistress of ceremonies. The service began in the cool early morning before dawn with the posting of colors by units from across Arizona and a blessing was offered by Uqualla, from Hualapai. Remembrance of Fallen Heroes was conducted by Joseph Hudson, former POW and fellow member in Lori Piestewa’s Army unit. Other speakers included Rex Lee Jim, Vice President, Navajo Nation; Adrian Brown, Councilman, Viejas Tribe; Robert and Josie Delsi; Mr. Matt Hamilton, Sioux, Oklahoma, read a special poem titled, *The Visitor*, to the audience; statements by former POWs; and Stuart Stinaff, Vietnam Veteran. Rounding out the speakers were the Royalties, Miss Navajo, Mckeon Dempsey; Miss Hopi, Lexie James; 2nd Attendant Paula Elmer; Lori Piestewa Post #80 Princess, Brenda Dacawyma; and Attendant Josephine Cook. A special Hopi Corn Dance was performed by the Lori Piestewa Post #80 Royalty. Final comments were made by Terry & Percy Piestewa and Lori’s son and daughter. The sunrise event concluded with the release of white doves and the playing of TAPS. Here are compliments from a member of the Arizona for Piestewa Committee:

*Miss Hopi had us crying and feeling proud of the Hopi culture throughout her presentation, the Post 80 Royalty taught us about the Hopi view and the Hopi way, and the beautiful Corn Dancers seemed to be dancing on air. Not easy to talk about war and fighting, given the Hopi belief in peace, but you taught us a great lesson. You must hold on to that belief in peace. Everything about the Post Royalty and the Miss Hopi and Attendant presentation was beautiful and educational, and you reached out and touched our beloved Gold Star families. You parents have done an outstanding job of developing your young ones and I wish the rest of society was like that. As Mary Kim Titla said, these youngsters were impressively articulate and are the future (and hope) of our country! They set quite an example at the evening and sunrise services. All I can say is! Wow! And of course thanks to the Honor Guard unit and other Hopi representatives for participating so fully.* Ernest Martinez.



Hopi Royalty at evening event



Hopi Royalty with honor guards at Sunrise Memorial Ceremony



Post #80 Royalty with former POWs of Lori Piestewa’s unit at Sunrise event

**Hopi Veterans Services wishes everyone a wonderful Easter Day with family and friends.**



**Arizona Governor Doug Ducey Appoints  
Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services**

Governor Doug Ducey announced the appointment of retired Colonel Wanda Wright as director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (AZDVS).

Col. Wright has been vice principal of Montessori Academy since 2011. She previously served as director of staff for the Arizona Air National Guard (2005-2011), directing Joint Forces Headquarters, air component military personnel, administrative, support and recruiting staff. She was responsible for overseeing programs supporting more than 2,500 personnel, conducting relief efforts for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, managing more than 4,000 air personnel assisting in the Operation Jump Start border mission and more.



"With three decades of outstanding military service - including five years in the active duty Air Force and 25 years with the National Guard - Col. Wright has the leadership experience, management skills and keen understanding of military and veterans issues necessary to direct this department's crucial mission," said Governor Ducey. "She recognizes the important value of veterans to our state and communities, and will be a steadfast advocate for them, their families and all of Arizona's men and women in uniform. Col. Wright will be a tremendous asset to our administration and a strong voice for Arizona veterans."

Col. Wright previously served with the 162nd Fighter Wing in Tucson, including as executive officer, communications flight commander and international training budget officer. Additional experience includes working in the MBA rotational program at Hughes Missile System Group and as budget office chief at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

In 2011, Col. Wright was awarded the prestigious Legion of Merit medal for her exceptional military service, which includes nearly 30 years in the United States Air Force.

She holds a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Arizona; Masters of Business Administration from Webster University; Bachelor of Science in Management from the United States Air Force Academy; and is in the process of obtaining a Master of Education from Arizona State University.

"I am honored that Governor Ducey has granted me this opportunity to work with and for the veterans of the state of Arizona," said Col. Wright. "I will do my best to serve those who have served our country."

Col. Wright's appointment makes her the first female director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services.

**Veterans Benefits Service Officer to Assist Veterans and Widows on Hopi**

Tanya Dooline, Veterans Service Officer, AZ DVS, will conduct VA benefits assistance for Veterans and Widows who reside on or around the Hopi Reservation. Her next visit to Hopi will be on Thursday, April 16, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (MST), at the Hopi Cancer Support Services modular located at Kykotsmovi. She will assist Veterans with VA compensation and pension applications and medical enrollments. To better assist you in submitting VA claims, please bring copies of: DD Form 214 (military discharge); marriage certificate; social security card for self, spouse, and children; birth certificate of self, spouse and children; divorce decrees; death certificates (deceased Veterans); award letters from federal, state or tribal entities; and any other documentation as supporting evidence for VA claims. Call Geno or Hanna at (928) 734-3461/3462 to make an appointment.

**Lori Piestewa Post #80 Meeting**

The local American Legion Lori Piestewa Post #80 will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., at Hopi Health Care Center conference room A302, Polacca, AZ. Go through main entrance and turn right near the patient registration area. All Veterans, Military and their family members are invited to attend the meeting to learn more about the American Legion, veteran issues and services offered to Veterans from all branches of the service. Food and drinks will be provided for everyone. For more information on meeting or to learn about the American Legion you can contact Geno at (928) 613-4863.



**VA Eliminates Net Worth as Health Care Eligibility Factor**  
***Elimination of Net Worth Makes More Veterans Eligible for Health Care***

Washington – The Department of Veterans Affairs is updating the way it determines eligibility for VA health care, a change that will result in more Veterans having access to the health care benefits they’ve earned and deserve.

Effective 2015, VA eliminated the use of net worth as a determining factor for both health care programs and copayment responsibilities. This change makes VA health care benefits more accessible to lower-income Veterans and brings VA policies in line with Secretary Robert A. McDonald’s MyVA initiative which reorients VA around Veterans’ needs.

“Everything that we do and every decision we make has to be focused on the Veterans we serve,” said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. “We are working every day to earn their trust. Changing the way we determine eligibility to make the process easier for Veterans is part of our promise to our Veterans.”

Instead of combining the sum of Veterans’ income with their assets to determine eligibility for medical care and copayment obligations, VA will now only consider a Veteran’s gross household income and deductible expenses from the previous year. Elimination of the consideration of net worth for VA health care enrollment means that certain lower-income, non-service-connected Veterans will have less out-of-pocket costs. Over a 5-year period, it is estimated that 190,000 Veterans will become eligible for reduced costs of their health care services.

In March 2014, VA eliminated the annual requirement for updated financial information. VA now uses information from the Internal Revenue Service and Social Security Administration to automatically match individual Veterans’ income information which reduces the burden on Veterans to keep their healthcare eligibility up to date. That change better aligned VA’s health care financial assessment program with other federal health care organizations.

Veterans may submit updated income information at [www.1010ez.med.va.gov/](http://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/), or by visiting their nearby VA health care facility. For more information, visit [www.va.gov/healthbenefits](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits) or call VA toll-free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

**VA Words to Expand Choice Program Eligibility**  
***Eligibility criteria for 40 miles calculation would change to driving distance***

Washington -- In order to expand eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that it will change the calculation used to determine the distance between a Veteran’s residence and the nearest VA medical facility from a straight line distance to driving distance. The policy change will be made through regulatory action in the coming weeks. The Veterans Choice Program was authorized by the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA).

“VA has worked very quickly to implement the Veterans Choice Program and we appreciate the constructive feedback shared by Veterans and our partners to help us improve service to Veterans,” said Secretary Robert McDonald. “We’ve determined that changing the distance calculation will help ensure more Veterans have access to care when and where they want it. VA looks forward to the ongoing support of our partners as we continue to make improvements to this new program.”

The method of determining driving distance will be through distance as calculated by using a commercial product. The change is expected to roughly double the number of eligible Veterans.

The Veterans Choice Program is a new, temporary benefit that allows eligible Veterans to receive health care in their communities rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility. Veterans seeking to use the Veterans Choice Program should call 1-866-606-8198 to confirm their eligibility and to schedule an appointment. Since the Choice Program went into effect on November 5, 2014, more than 45,000 medical appointments have been scheduled.

Using expanded authorities from VACAA, VA continues to expand access to care through increased staffing and enhanced collaboration with both the Indian Health Service and Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems.

VA is enhancing its health care system and improving service delivery to better serve Veterans and set the course for long-term excellence and reform. VA has made significant progress in various areas of the legislation, such as extending the Assisted Living/Traumatic Brain Injury Pilot program and Project Arch, to expand timely access to high-quality health care for Veterans.

**The Twenty & Four Echelon 35-AZ** is an honor society of women Legionnaires who are active and productive Legionnaires who strive earnestly to uphold the principles, aims, purpose and standards of the American Legion. If you are interested in joining, contact [www.twentyandfour.org](http://www.twentyandfour.org) or Beth Nehring at [602-363-8546](tel:602-363-8546) or [70wave@gmail.com](mailto:70wave@gmail.com).

**The Veterans Drive Program** HDS Truck Driving Institute almost guarantees you a job if you graduate. Thousands of truck drivers are needed as the economy expands. You do not have to go to college under the GI Bill. There are flexible hours, days, weekends and evenings, so you may enroll if you are already working. They are in Phoenix, Yuma and Tucson. Details: Ken Enfinger at [602-352-5811](tel:602-352-5811).

**Two new restaurants giving a veterans discount** are the Angry Crab Shack in Mesa and Phoenix. If you like seafood, I recommend these restaurants, especially if you like to eat with your hands. It is quite different and crowded. These restaurants have an extensive menu besides what their name advertises. They also give a discount to all first responders.

**Congratulations to Senior Chief Petty Officer Jon Altmann**, U.S. Navy, retired, who has been selected to serve a three-year term on the Secretary of the Navy's Retiree Council. Jon is very active in every aspect of helping veterans and serves on the Unified Arizona Veterans representing the Phoenix Military Veterans Commission. This is the only city I know in the state that has a military commission.

**The 113th U.S. Congress enacted only 163 pieces of legislation.** Following are some current bills:

H.R. 303 - Retired Pay Restoration Act, allows all longevity retirees and all medically retired with fewer than 20 years to receive full retired pay and service connected disability pay has 27 new cosponsors.

H.R. 333 Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act, ends all restrictions to receiving both military retired pay and VA service connected disability pay has 139 cosponsors.

S.234, permits all uniformed service retirees to receive full retired pay and their VA service connected disability pay or combat related special compensation. Has 24 cosponsors.

Pending Bills:

H.R. 5484/S2738 Toxic Exposure Research Act. Reflects issues working for justice for the innocent victims of the use of toxic substances in time of war.

H.R. 1739 - Veterans Backlog Reduction Act, Any claim for veterans disability compensation that is not adjudicated within 125 days after submission, proposes to pay such claimant provisional benefits beginning on the date of such deadline on the date on which a final claim decision is made.

H.R. 2485, Helping Homeless Veterans. Extends the homeless veteran reintegration program; provides counseling for all at-risk veterans, and provides low income veterans families with permanent housing and special needs for homeless veterans.

H.R. 4741, Surviving Spouses Benefit Improvement Act. Increases monthly rates of veterans dependency and indemnity compensation payable to surviving spouses through the Department of Veterans Affairs. (\*\*\*) Information courtesy of Arthur G. Sloane and Lew Bradley(\*\*\*)

## Hopi High JROTC Selling Dog Tags

The Hopi High School JROTC members are conducting a fundraiser by selling military-style Dog Tags. On one side is the JROTC logo and website to the *USA Cares*. The opposite side has an eagle and US Flag. The tags are on sale for \$10.00 each.

Historically Dog Tags were provided to Chinese soldiers as early as the mid-19th century. During the Taiping revolt (1851–66), both the Imperialists (i.e., the Chinese Imperial Army regular servicemen) and those Taiping rebels wearing a uniform wore a wooden dog tag at the belt, bearing the soldier's name, age, birthplace, unit, and date of enlistment.

During the American Civil War of 1861–1865, some soldiers pinned paper notes with their name and home address to the backs of their coats. Other soldiers stenciled identification on their knapsacks or scratched it in the soft lead backing of their army belt buckle.

The U.S. Army first authorized identification tags in War Department General Order No. 204, dated December 20, 1906, which essentially prescribes the Kennedy identification tag. In the 1990s, the U.S. Army stopped using the term *dog tags*, replacing it with the designation *ID tags*.

Proceeds from sale goes to the Hopi High JROTC and the remainder goes to the *USA Cares* organization. The *USA Cares* organization assist all veterans and military members who have served and are currently serving this great nation. To purchase a Dog Tag contact SFC Joe Deleon, Army Instructor or Alex Quiyo, Cadet Commander, Hopi High School JROTC at (928) 738-5111.



Hopi JROTC Dog Tag



American G.I. Dog Tag

“The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.” *Vince Lombardi*

It's that time of year again, we are proud to announce that we will be having our annual Men's Night Out event on April 9, 2015 at the Hopi Veteran's Memorial Center. Attached is a PDF of our flyer with information about the event. This year we are focusing on total body wellness and how that impacts our male roles in today's society. Last year, we had over 250 participants. Let's spread the word and make this a bigger event. Send registration forms to [kpolingyumptewa@hopi.nsn.us](mailto:kpolingyumptewa@hopi.nsn.us) to confirm your attendance. Oh, this year we would like for the men to dress in their traditional or semi-traditional Native American attire. If you have any questions, please contact Kellen Polingyumptewa, Community Health Representative, at (928) 734-1151 or fax your registration to (928) 734-1158. Have a wonderful day and take care!

Sponsored by The Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention & H.O.P.I. Cancer Support Services



**2015 Men's Night Out**  
"Hopi Takat Makiwaat"  
April 09, 2015

**Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Program/Business: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Village/Community Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ Clan: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever attended at Men's Night Out or Man Up Event? YES / NO  
 If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in receiving more information on cancer topics? YES / NO

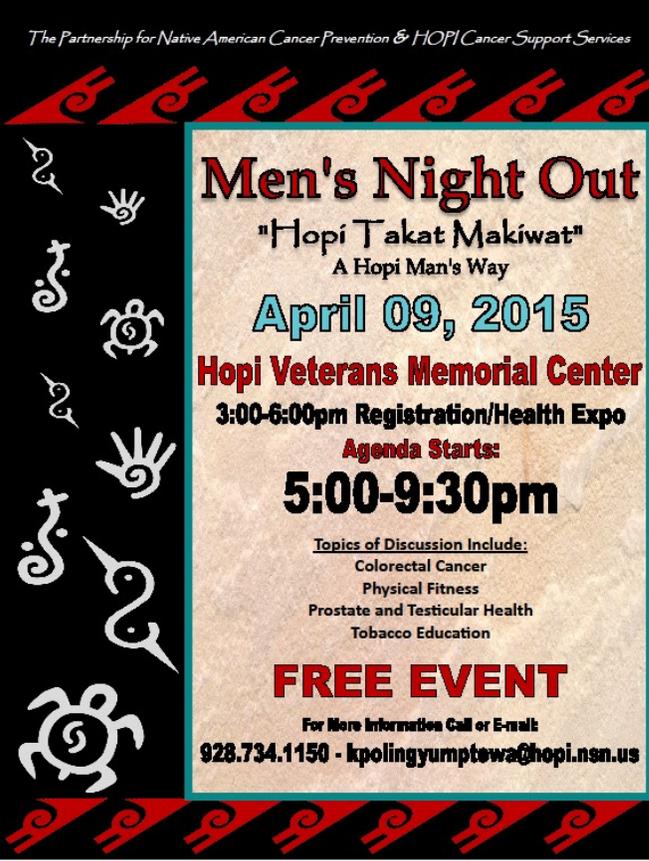
Registration Submissions can be sent through the following:

Mail: HOPI Cancer Support Services  
P.O. Box 123  
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039  
Fax: (928)734-1158  
E-Mail: [kpolingyumptewa@hopi.nsn.us](mailto:kpolingyumptewa@hopi.nsn.us)

I hereby recognize and agree that registrants attending the 2015 Men's Night Out may be subjected to certain risks of physical injury, damages, or loss. I voluntarily agree to assume the risk of physical injury, damages, or loss that I may sustain as a result of participation in the event. I further waive and relinquish all claims that I may have against the Hopi Tribe and all program sponsors including event coordinators, volunteers, and employees. I also give permission to the HOPI Cancer Support Services and the Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention to utilize my image in publications, newsletters, flyers, etc. which will be of benefit to the program.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(If under 18 years old, Parent or guardian must also sign)

The Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention & HOPI Cancer Support Services



## Men's Night Out

"Hopi Takat Makiwaat"  
A Hopi Man's Way

### April 09, 2015

**Hopi Veterans Memorial Center**

**3:00-6:00pm Registration/Health Expo**

**Agenda Starts:**

## 5:00-9:30pm

Topics of Discussion Include:  
Colorectal Cancer  
Physical Fitness  
Prostate and Testicular Health  
Tobacco Education

## FREE EVENT

For More Information Call or E-mail  
**928.734.1150 - [kpolingyumptewa@hopi.nsn.us](mailto:kpolingyumptewa@hopi.nsn.us)**

## Did You Know?

April 1 marks the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa—April 1, 1945. Okinawa was to serve as an air base for a planned invasion of Japanese mainland which is only 340 miles away. It was called "Operation Iceberg" and was the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific Theater. Over 1,200 ships landed more than 180,000 Marines and Soldiers. The final toll of American casualties was 49,151 of which 12,250 were killed or missing and 36,631 wounded. The battle is referred to as the "Typhoon of Steel" and lasted 82 days.



### Hopi Veterans Services

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (MST), Monday—Friday, excluding Hopi Tribal holidays.  
 Location: H.O.P.I. Cancer Support Services Building, located near the Hopi Nutrition Center.  
 Address: P.O. Box 123, Kykotsmovi, AZ, 86039  
 (928) 734-3461 or 734-3462 or E-mail us at: [ETalas@hopi.nsn.us](mailto:ETalas@hopi.nsn.us)  
 For VA website, go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or call (800) 827-1000 on VA benefits.

