June 4, 2004

Dear Tribal Leader:

Greetings from Washington, D.C., host city for "America Celebrates the Greatest Generation: 100-Day Tribute, Summer 2004." One of the cornerstone events of this tribute was the official dedication of the National World War II (WWII) Memorial. As part of our 6th Annual Meeting, the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) will host an Honor Dinner for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian World War II Veterans on Friday, July 9, 2004. The Annual Meeting and dinner will be held at the Jurys Hotel on Dupont Circle in downtown Washington.

NATHPO (www.nathpo.org) is a non-profit membership organization of tribal governments dedicated to upholding and supporting tribal historic preservation in Indian country. Our main priority is to support tribes located around the country through a variety of activities, such as training, technical assistance, and information sharing. However, NATHPO is not only concerned about preserving historic sites in Indian country; we are here to raise awareness about our cultures and contributions in America’s history. Native participation in our military services cannot be overlooked.

Thanks to the guidance and participation of several Indian WW II veterans, NATHPO will honor and acknowledge our WWII veterans through this Honor Dinner. In order to include those veterans who may not be able to travel, NATHPO is creating a National Registry of Native American WWII Veterans and respectfully requests that you send us information on the members of your tribe who served in WWII. Please include the following information: tribal members’ names, branch(es) of military service and years served (see attached form for your convenience). Currently, this information is not available anywhere and the National Registry will be available for review and additions during the Honor Dinner, and will be posted on our website.

Currently, we are working to raise funds that would allow Native American WWII veterans to come to Washington to be honored in an appropriate and dignified manner, including a visit to the WWII Memorial. Unfortunately, we have not received financial commitments, yet. However, if your tribe is able to provide financial assistance for your veteran(s) to come to the Honor Dinner, then please contact us as soon as possible and we will reserve a place at dinner and include them in our program.

Other activities that will be held during our Annual Meeting include a Congressional reception on July 7, co-hosted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and educational field trips to the National Archives and the Smithsonian Institution. Because of the volume of requests for information on the 6th Annual Meeting, we are asking, if you are able, to review our website (www.nathpo.org) to see if any of your questions about the Annual Meeting are answered.
We look forward to your participation in our conference and in helping us preserve the memory and sacrifices of our people during WWII. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me, or Ms. Jaime Lavallee, special assistant, at (202) 454-5664. Thank you.

Sincerely,

D. Bambi Kraus, President

Note: NATHPO has also negotiated a great rate for conference participants: $125.00 for a single and $135.00 for a double. Rooms can be reserved for July 3rd to 12th at the special NATHPO rate. These rates are only available until Wednesday, June 16th. After this date, we will not be able to find or guarantee a room during the height of the July 4th Celebrations, therefore it's important to reserve a room now.