Honor Dinner
for Native American
World War II Veterans

August 11, 2005
Lake of the Torches Resort Casino
Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin

In conjunction with the
7th Annual NATHPO Meeting
National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
Honor Dinner Program

Dinner Guests Are Seated
Announcement Made for All Guests to Rise
Honored Guests Enter Ballroom
The Color Guard Enters and Presents Colors
Lac du Flambeau Drum Group
Color Guard Retires Colors and Exits
Welcome
Opening Comments
Dinner Commences

Gerard A. Baker, Master of Ceremonies

Dinner Honorees

George W. Brown, Jr. (Lac du Flambeau)
   Ralph Burr (Stockbridge-Munsee)
   Arthur Chapman (Menominee)
   Clarence Chicks (Stockbridge-Munsee)
   Joe Chosa (Lac du Flambeau)
   Joe Cornelius (Stockbridge-Munsee)
   Aught Coyhis (Stockbridge-Munsee)
   Richard R. Dodge (Menominee)
   William Fredenberg (Menominee)
   Constance Goetz (Menominee)
   Samuel Hawpetoss (Menominee)
   Keith Hill (Stockbridge-Munsee)
   Dennison James (Menominee)
   Rose Kerstetter (Oneida)
   Robert Kitson (Menominee)
   John Lawe (Menominee)
   Virgil Murphy (Stockbridge-Munsee)
   Ernie Murphy (Stockbridge-Munsee)
   Wilmer Peters, Sr. (Menominee)
   Willard Putnam (Stockbridge-Munsee)
   John B. Reiter (Menominee)
   Glenn A. Sebby (Lac du Flambeau community)
   Eugene Phillip Soulier, Sr. (Lac du Flambeau)
   Raymond Teller (Menominee)
   Ervin Toussay (Stockbridge-Munsee)
   Gwen Washinawatok (Menominee)
   Earl Wescott Sr. (Menominee)
Honorees

George W. Brown, Jr.

George is a U.S. Navy Veteran – 1944-1947. He served onboard USS-LSJ 826 during the Pacific Campaign. He is a life-long resident of Lac du Flambeau and served over 40 years on the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Council, continuously.

Ralph Burr

PFC Ralph Norbert Burr’s Army career began in October 1940, and extended to the fall of 1945. He served five years without one furlough. He was a member of the A Battery 305th CA Balloon Battalion.

Ralph began his tour of duty in Rhinelander where he received his physical examination. From there he went to Fort Sheridan in Illinois, on to Camp Wallace in Texas and then to Camp Davis in Holly Ridge, North Carolina. From North Carolina he went to Vallejo, California and then to Hawaii. He was then stationed on Truck Island in the Pacific, then was sent to the Invasion of the Philippines and ended up on Okinawa where he shot at Japanese suicide planes with a 4-machine gun tripod. After this, he returned home.

Specialty courses he completed while serving were Ranger Training at Fort Shafter in Hawaii, completed courses of unarmed defense at Hickam Field in Honolulu, Hawaii, anti-aircraft and machine gun training also in Hawaii and cooking/baking school in North Carolina.

While he was stationed in Hawaii, an officer took his picture and sent it to Washington, DC. The officer told Ralph that there had been a Stockbridge Indian in every war since the beginning of the United States.

There were nine Burr Brothers out of Ralph’s family who had served in the military at various times and all had returned home safely.

Arthur Charles Chapman

Keshena, Wisconsin

U.S. Navy

Entered into Active Duty: August 16, 1944.

Honorably Discharged: December 5, 1947.

Rank or rating held: Coxswain USN

Vessels and stations served on: U.S.S. LST 995; Naval Barracks, NOB; NOG, Saipan, M.I.


Clarence Chicks

Clarence enlisted in the U.S. Navy in January 1942 in St. Louis, Missouri. He served for over four years on active duty. He served in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres; mostly on convoy duty escorting ships overseas. He was aboard the USS Frament DE 577 and the USS Bivin DE 536.

Clarence was discharged in February 1946 at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station with the rank of Chief Petty Officer. He earned the Asiatic Pacifica Area Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and the American Area Ribbon.
Joe Chosa

Joe graduated from Minocqua High School just before WWII. He volunteered for military service at 18 years-old, just after Hitler started invading the small European countries. He fought numerous battles and campaigns: Sicilian, Naples Foggia, Rome, Arno, Tunisian, Algerian and French Moroccan and was honorably discharged at age 23.

After the war, he worked in Milwaukee for 1 ½ years then came back to Lac du Flambeau that summer and worked as a fish guide. In the fall, he began work for Simpsons Electric. He worked there for 42 years and was a manager for 25 years. He then retired in 1987. Elected as Council Member 4 times, Joe also held leadership roles in Lions Clubs, Knights of Columbus, VFW and was a commander in the American Legion.

Norrin “Joe” Cornelius

Joe enlisted in the Army and served his country from March 17, 1943, until October 29, 1945. He was first sent to Fort Sheridan, Illinois, for outfitting and basic orientation and then on to Fort McClellan, Ala., for basic training. He wants everyone to know he learned a valuable skill at Fort Sheridan, and that was how to pick “snipes.” At 3am he arose to assume his duty only to discover snipes are cigarette butts.

From Fort McClellan, Joe went to Camp Rucker for infantry training. He joined the 179th Infantry anti-tank unit of the 5th Army, 45th Division in Oran, Africa - the “Oklahoma Thunderbirds.” His job was that of an anti-tank gunner. He was then sent to the Invasion of Naples, Italy. After Naples, his unit was sent to Sicily to prepare for the invasion of Anzio, one of the bloodiest battles ever fought in WWII. It was here that Joe, the only survivor of his six man anti-tank crew, was taken prisoner by the Germans.

He and his buddy, Joseph Glennicky, planned an escape. It worked. They had to hide and sleep by day and travel under the cover of darkness. One day they heard the sound of a jeep, which they recognized as American. They were going to be rescued. Joe was a prisoner of war for 14 months. Private First Class Norrin Cornelius went to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, where he was honorably discharged. Joe later received the Prisoner of War Medal.

Aught L. Coyhis

Aught is a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Tribe of Wisconsin. He has traveled a lot of roads during his life and one vividly memorable one is the one that led him to Europe during WWII. Aught was stationed in England on D-Day. He recalls the deafening roar of the planes overhead, his thoughts questioning – was this going to be the end of the world? Through the grace of God, it wasn’t.

The road from England took him to Omaha Beach in Normandy, France. He was a trained corpsman (Emergency Medical Technician) so the images of his brave comrade’s pain and suffering have left an indelible mark on his life.

Aught was attached to Patton’s Army. Besides England and France, he crossed the Rhine River and spent a brief time in Germany. He was honored by being presented with four Bronze Stars. Service to his country began in 1943 and ended in 1945, at which time Corporal Coyhis was honorably discharged. Aught is very proud of his service record and to have fought to protect his country.

Aught was also Tribal Chairman. He traveled to Washington, DC, with a group of tribal members and that group was instrumental in regaining land for the Tribe.
Richard Robert Dodge

Keshena, Wisconsin
United States Marine Corps
Rank or rating held: P.F.C.
Place of Entry into service: Great Lakes, Illinois
Entered in Active Duty: May 25, 1945.
Honorably Discharged: November 4, 1946.
Military Specialties: T.P. Man – 641
Areas served: Embarked on a troop ship sent to Okinawa, Japan, and subsequently departed into China.

1st Marine Division, was placed with the Navajo Code Talkers, also participated in, but did not speak the official Navajo language, assigned with other Native people to work with the Navajo Code Talkers in the 1st Marine Division Headquarters where all imperative information was funneled through.

Rank or rating held: P.F.C.
Military Specialties: T.P. Man – 641
Stationed: Camp Lejeune, NC

William Fredenberg

Keshena, Wisconsin
United States Air Force
Enlisted in the Army Air Force in 1942.
Honorably Discharged in 1945
Re-Entered the Air Force in 1950
Re-Commissioned: 1952
Retired from active duty in 1969

Service in W.W.I., Korea and Vietnam

During WWII he flew a P-47 “Thunder Bolt” in a fighter-bomber squadron. Flying from England in his 37th mission on June 14, 1944, he was shot down over France and captured by the Germans. On a prison train he led a successful escape of 13 prisoners and took up arms with the Free French sabotaging German soldiers. He returned to duty and took part in the Normandy Invasion. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters.

William Fredenberg re-entered the Air Force in 1950. He was sent to Japan as part of the Japan Air Defense Force in radar control. In 1952 he was re-commissioned to the 40th Fighter Squadron. He returned to the U.S. in 1953 to become an instructor pilot. During the 1960’s Operation Paul Revere, he flew his AC-47 in air support of a group of soldiers while surrounded by enemy forces and intense hostile fire. Major William Fredenberg received his second Distinguished Flying Cross.

Two Distinguished Flying Cross Medals with Two Oak Leaf Clusters
Air Medal with fifteen Oak Leaf Clusters

Constance Goetz

Keshena, Wisconsin
Cadet Nurse Corp
Enlisted: 1942
Honorably Discharged: 1945
Constance was in training to go overseas at Chicago at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital.
Her training was completed two weeks before the Japanese surrendered. She was inducted into the Navy as a naval nurse two weeks after she was through with her training.
Samuel Hawpetoss
United States Navy
Neopit, Wisconsin
Rank Held: Fireman 1st Class
Military Occupation: Fireman
Date of Entry into Active Service: February 27, 1943
Honorary Discharged: August 17, 1946
Decorations and Citations: American Area Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Area Ribbon, World War II Victory Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation

Keith Hill
Keith was 30 years-old when he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served three years, four months and 22 days. While in the service he was stationed in Panama, went to London on the Queen Mary with Mickey Rooney -- he even played poker with Mickey -- and was in Frankfurt, Germany. Keith was trained for truck driving, but ended up a cook.

After returning from the service Keith met Ira Hayes sitting outside a tavern. Ira asked Keith for a dollar, Keith noticed Ira had no shoes on his feet, so Keith bought him a pair of shoes and a drink.

Dennison James
Neopit, Wisconsin
United States Army
Rank or rating held: P.F.C. 36 835 954 P.F.C. 468th MED COLL CO (SEP)
Inducted on: October 18, 1943
Place of Entry: Fort Sheridan, Illinois
Entered Active Service on: November 8, 1943

Rose Kerstetter
Born September 5, 1918 on the Oneida Indian reservation
Joined the Army on September 1, 1943
Discharged January 18, 1946
Stationed at a WAC detachment in Camp Hood, Texas
Awarded the WAC Ribbon, the Victory Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Campaign Medal
Presently she is a world-renowned master potter/Iroquois artist.

Robert Kitson
Keshena, Wisconsin
United States Marine Corps
Rank held: Private
Serial Number: 836997
Enlisted at Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Inducted into service: April 15, 1943
Honorary Discharged as Casual Company, MBNYd. on November 26th, 1945 at Philadelphia, Pa.
Special military qualifications: Rifleman
Areas served and Stations: Southwest Pacific Area, from November 10, 1943, to April 20, 1944
Wounds received in service: Wounded in Action, January 2, 1944
Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions: Participated and subjected to Japanese aerial activity at Cape Sudest, New Guinea, from December 5 to December 19, 1943; in the Offensive and Defensive operations at Cape Gloucester, New Britain Islands, December 26, 1943, to February 26, 1944.

Decorations and Citations: Service honest and faithful. Issued Honorable Service Lapel Button. Inducted and transferred April 15, 1943. Awarded Purple Heart Medal June 6, 1944. Art. 3-15 MCM.

John Lawe
Neopit, Wisconsin
United States Army
Rank held: Private Regular Army
Honorably Discharged as 46 014 187 PVT Regular Army on February 4, 1950

Although more information about his service is not provided in his records, he received a letter from the White House signed by President Harry S. Truman that said, “To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Armed Forces to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt thanks of a grateful Nation. As one of the Nation’s finest, you undertook the most severe task one can be called upon to perform. Because you demonstrated the fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example in further exalting our country in peace.”

Ernestine Murphy

I answered the call of my country to serve in the Armed Forces. I enlisted in the United State Marine Corp. on March 22, 1945, just for the duration of the war. They were drafting men for the military, the purpose of enlisting women was to free men from the jobs that women could do, mostly office and factory work, so they could recruit more men. I took six weeks of boot training in Camp Lejune, South Carolina. That was the hardest and toughest part of my military experience. After that I was stationed at military bases in Narman, OK, where I did mostly office work and later transferred to Washington, DC, where I was assigned in the office of secret and confidential files.

I didn’t mind any work or job I was assigned to except guard duty and especially early morning hours. The women Marines was the last branch of women in the military to go overseas that was voluntary. The war was just about over and we could take our discharge. I came home and got married. I got my discharge in January 1946. Being in the military was a very valuable experience. The boot camp and some of the discipline was hard but I think that made me better equipped to get along in the service with other people. I sometimes was the only Indian in our squadron. I am proud to have served my country.

Virgil Murphy

Virgil Murphy was in the service from 1940 - 1945. He was working in the CCC’s – the Civil Conservation Corps. The boys were hearing about the things going on overseas and we felt the time had come for us to join the service. So we did, and were sent to Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

After basic training I was sent up to Milwaukee to be a recruiter and work for the
Induction Center. After about two years I decided that I wanted to join the Air Force and was sent to school in South Dakota. From there I was sent to England on a convoy of about 15 ships, it took about two weeks travel. We landed at England, and stayed in a pool of men until some of us were sent over to France where I worked with the 21st Weather squadron, and the 9th Bombardment squadron. We were a small group and traveled a lot - Chaltz and Rheins, then to Belgium, and Germany, where I received word that I was eligible for retirement.

I was sent to England again then came home to New York on the Queen Elizabeth where I met Roger, my brother who also was eligible to retire. So we came home together.

**Wilmer Peters, Sr.**

Neopit, Wisconsin
United States Marine Corps
Rank held: Corporal (TW) line
Enlisted at: Milwaukee, Wisconsin on November 19, 1942
Honorably Discharged: November 3, 1945 at Great Lakes, Illinois
Weapons qualifications: Bayonet – Qual January 11, 1942
Special Military qualifications: Tank Crewman
Areas served and stations: Pacific Area January 13, 1944 – October 15, 1945
Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions: Participated in action against the enemy at Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands February 1, 1944, to February 5, 1944; at Saipan, Marianas Islands June 15, 1944, to July 23, 1944; at Tinian, Marianas Is, July 24, 1944, to August 10, 1944; at Iwo Jima, Volcano Island February 19, 1945, to March 17, 1945.

Corporal Peters received a special commendation and medal for bravery in the Battle of Iwo Jima Island.

**Willard Putnam**

Willard served in the U.S. Army from 1941-1945. The beginning of his service time was spent in Ireland, but most of his four years were spent in North Africa in the artillery fighting Rommel, the “Desert Fox.” Willard said, “There is a bottle that was put aside for the last man standing.”

**John B. Reiter**

Keshena, Wisconsin
United States Army
Rank held: Private
Company C 185th Infantry
Enlisted and Entered in Active Service: August 27, 1941
Honorably Discharged: March 14, 1946 at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas
Military Occupational Specialty: Rifleman 745, Field Wire Chief
Military Qualification and date: Marksman Rifle December 18, 1944
Battles and Campaigns: Southern Philippines
Decorations and Citations: World War II Victory Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, American Defense Service Ribbon, AP Theater Ribbon and One Bronze Service Star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon and One Bronze Star GO 23 Hq. USAFFE 45.

**Glenn A. Sebby**

Glenn A. Sebby, age 23, was inducted into the U.S. Navy on July 5, 1943 and served until his honorable discharge on November 16, 1946.

Glenn served on the aircraft carrier Enterprise the entire time of his service in the Asiatic Pacific Theater Task Force 58 under Admiral Halsey.
The two decisive naval battles he participated in were the battle of Midway and the Coral Sea.

**Eugene Phillip Soulier, Sr.**

Eugene entered the Navy in June 1944. He underwent boot camp training at the Great Lakes Training Center, Illinois, and had further training at Virginia on a mine craft. Eugene was stationed on a Mine Sweeper, USS Roselle overseas at Sasebo, Japan, and worked the area sweeping mines. He was discharged from the Navy, June 1946 with the rank Motor Machinists Mate 3/C. Eugene was awarded the Victory Medal, American Area Campaign Medal, and Asiatic Pacific Area Campaign Medal.

**Raymond Teller**

Suring, Wisconsin  
United States Army  
Rank Held: Private  
Organization: 3458TH SIG SERV CO  
Enlisted and Entered into Active Service: December 2, 1942  
Honорably Discharged: December 8, 1945 at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois  
Military Occupation and Specialty: Truck Driver  
Heavy 931  
Decorations and Citations: Victory Medal, European Theater Ribbon, African Theater Ribbon, Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with 4 Bronze Battle Stars, 5 Overseas Service Bars, 1 Service Stripe, Good Conduct Medal

**Ervin Tousey**

Ervin entered the service on June 9, 1942. Ervin was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, and Fort Hood, New Jersey. When Ervin was shipped overseas, he served in Scotland and England. On the second day of the Normandy Invasion he entered France. From then he served in Germany and Belgium, leaving for home from Antwerp, Belgium, and arriving safely home on October 25, 1945.

**Gwen E. Dodge Washinawatok**

Keshena, Wisconsin  
United States Navy  
Rank Held: Radioman Third Class (T)  
Entry into Active Service: August 27, 1944  
Honorable Discharged: January 20, 1946, at Great Lakes, Illinois  
Military Occupational Specialty: Received messages in Morse Code, converted them and dispatched them off to precise locations.  
United States Naval Security Group Command. Unit was preparing to deploy overseas when the war ended  
Service Vessels and Stations: Naval Radio Activities, Port Blakely, Washington, United States Naval Radio Stations, 11th Imperial Beach, San Diego, California. Decorations and Citations: The American Campaign Ribbon and World War II Victory Ribbon
Earl Roger Deer a.ka. Earl Wescott Sr.
Keshena, Wisconsin
United States Navy
Rank Held: Apprentice Seaman
Serial Number: 307 10 03
Enlisted on September 28, 1944 at NRS Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Honorably Discharged on December 18, 1944 from United States Naval Hospital at Great Lakes, Illinois
Vessels and stations served on: Served on Active Duty from November 11, 1944 to December 18, 1944.

Gerard Baker, Master of Ceremonies
Superintendent
Mount Rushmore National Memorial
National Park Service

Gerard A. Baker, formerly the superintendent of the "Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future," project and the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail was named superintendent of Mount Rushmore National Memorial in 2004. Prior to this appointment, Baker led the planning, development, and operations of the Corps of Discovery II project to commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark Expedition during the years 2003-2006.

Baker began his NPS career in 1979 as a park technician at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site in North Dakota. He served as historian for Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site for two years before assuming the North Unit District Ranger job at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. In 1990, Baker transferred to the U.S. Forest Service as assistant district ranger for the Little Missouri National Grasslands, also in North Dakota. He spent the following year as assistant district ranger for the Beartooth District in Red Lodge, and acting district ranger on the Ashland District, Montana, before returning to the NPS as superintendent of Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument, Crow Agency, Montana.

Baker was born and raised on his father’s cattle ranch located on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in western North Dakota. Fort Berthold Indian Reservation is the home of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Tribes. He spent his early years being raised in a very traditional manner, learning his culture from his older Clan relatives through oral history. Baker attended schools on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in Mandaree, North Dakota. He graduated in 1979 from Southern Oregon State University with Bachelor of Science degrees in Criminology and Sociology. In 1997, he was a consultant to Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan on their "Lewis & Clark: A Corps of Discovery" film.