

ABOUT COMANCHE VETERANS FROM 1883 TO PRESENT



MAJ Kent O. Tomah III
Army



LCpl Stefano Ruiz
Marine Corps



QM1 Kevin
Pohawpatchoko
Navy



Sgt Roger Tehauno
Air Force



Sgt Emilio Alfaro
Space Force



PO1 Erin Heminokeky
Coast Guard

Researched and written by Lanny Asepermy – Information from Veterans DD214's, military documents (citations, certificates, orders), news articles, interviews with veterans and veterans families, obituaries, videos, YouTube, Wikipedia, Google and Yahoo, information current as of 1 September 2025 – edited by William Meadows, published by Scott Wright, formatted by Michael Squire.

1) LANNY ASEPERMY – CIVA Historian/Ambassador



Sergeant Major (Retired), US Army 1966-90
Vietnam War, August 1969 to August 1970 with C and HQs (Scouts) Companies
1st Battalion, 77th Armor, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division
Ambassador, OK Military Hall of Fame since 2011
Inductee, OK Military Hall of Honor October 2023
Inductee, OK Military Hall of Fame October 2024
Ambassador, Chapter 17 Theadwell-Poolaw OK Military Hall of Honor, established March 2025
Honorary Doctorate, Missouri State University May 2025
Comanche Nation National Treasure 2025



Comanche veterans during Grand Entry at the Comanche Nation Fair 2018

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2) MILITARY BRANCHES



Flags of the US Military branches, left to right, Army; Marine Corps; Navy; Air Force; Space Force; Coast Guard

1,312 known Comanches have served in all branches the military

721 (54.9%) have served in the Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Women Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), Women Army Corps (WAC).

150 (11.4%) have served in the Marine Corps, Marine Corps Reserve, Women Marine Corps.

242 (18.4%) have served in the Navy, Naval Reserve, WAVES (Women Accepted Volunteer Emergency Service).

182 (13.9%) have served in the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Army Air Corps, Army Air Force, WAF (Women Air Force).

5 (.004%) have served in the Coast Guard (E, Heminokeky, D. Yackeschi, N. Hernasy, W. Tabbytite, G. McDonald)

1 (.0008%) has served in the Space Force (Emilio Alfaro).

Note: Nipper Tiddark is the only veteran to serve in three branches, the Navy, Army and Air Force - 164 Comanches have served in two branches of the military.

“When you get home, tell them of us and say, for their tomorrow, we gave our today”

3) WARTIME SERVICE

1 Comanche served during the Indian Wars (1790-1890).

1 Comanche served during the Spanish-American War (1898).

63 Comanches served during World War I 1917-18 (including 23 in France, Italy, England and Belgium).

218 Comanches served during World War II (1941-45).

143 Comanches served during the Korean War (1950-53).

344 Comanches served during the Vietnam War (1962-73).

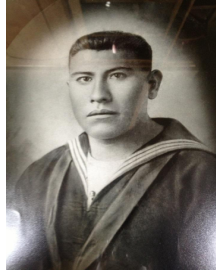
103 Comanches served during the Gulf War (1990-91).

108 Comanches served during the Afghanistan (2001-21) and Iraq (2003-11) Wars.

4) THE FIRST TO SERVE (with enlistment date)



Chebahtah
First Soldier
1883 & 1886



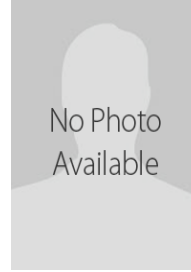
Norton Tahquechi
First Sailor
3 July 1918



Edward Louis Clark
First Marine
26 September 1933



Teddy Tahsuda
First Airman
3 May 1941



Nathan Hernasy
First Coastguardman
1942



Emilio Alfaro
First Spaceforceman
2023

5) FALLEN WARRIORS

Thirteen Comanches have either been killed in action (9), died of combat wounds (2), died in captivity (1) or declared dead while missing in action (1).



The first to fall were during World War II, in Normandy France, were PFC Johnny Rivas on 6 June 1944 and SGT Melvin "Hawkeye" Myers on 14 June 1944. Both were members of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division. PFC Rivas will forever be 22 years old, he is buried at the Normandy American Cemetery, France and SGT Myers will forever be 28 years old, he is buried at Fairview Cemetery, Apache, OK



PVT Eli Hosetosavit
Army - WWII
634th Tank Destroyer Bn
KIA 1 Aug 1944
Forever 25 yrs old
Buried at Post Oak Cemetery
Indianapolis, OK



PVT Ben Trevino
Army - WWII
9th Infantry Div
KIA 3 Aug 1944
Forever 21 yrs old
Buried at the Brittany
American Cemetery, France



PFC Thomas Chockpoyah
Army - WWII
83rd Infantry Div
KIA & Aug 1944
Forever 20 yrs old
Buried at Highland Cemetery
Lawton, OK



PFC Gilbert Vidana
Army - WWII
4th Infantry Div
KIA 16 Sep 1944
Forever 21 yrs old
Buried at the Henri-Chapelle
American Cemetery, Belgium



PVT Henry Kosechata
Army - WWII
138th Engr Cbt Bn
DOW 1 May 1945
Forever 30 yrs old
Buried at the Netherlands
American Cemetery, Holland



PFC Henry Conwoop
Army - WWII
25th Infantry Div
DOW 3 May 1945
Forever 23 yrs old
Buried Deyo Mission Cemetery
West of Lawton, OK



Lt Col Meech Tahsequah
Air Force - Korean War
3rd Maint & Spt Squadron
Declared dead while MIA
6 Dec 1950 – 35 yrs old
Memorialized at Highland Cemetery
Lawton, OK



CPL Dennis Karty
Army – Korean War
2nd Infantry Div
Died in Captivity
30 Mar 1952
Forever 20 yrs old
Buried at Highland
Cemetery, Lawton, OK



The last three Comanches to fall were members of the US Marine Corps, from left to right, PFC Russell Eugene Pesewonit, 1st Marine Div, Vietnam War, KIA 22 Jul 1966, he is forever 19 yrs old (the youngest Comanche to die in combat), buried at the Mescalero Indian Cemetery, Mescalero, NM; Cpl Robert Carlos Pahcheka, 1st Marine Div, Vietnam War, KIA 22 Oct 1966, he is forever 22 yrs old, buried at Post Oak Cemetery, Indianola, OK; and Cpl Joshua Jerald Ware, 3rd Marine Div, Iraq War, KIA 16 Nov 2005, he is forever 20 yrs old, buried Rainey Mountain Cemetery, west of Mountain View, OK

*“Only two defining forces have offered to die for you – one is Jesus Christ
for your soul, the other is the American Soldier for your freedom”*

6) PRISONERS OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION



Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Emblem



SSG Bruce Klinekole
Army – Pacific
World War II
515th Coastal Arty
9 Apr 42 – 1 Sep 45



Capt Myers Sr Wahnee
Army Air Force – Europe
World War II
8th Air Force
20 Mar 44 – 29 Apr 45



SSgt Inman Gooday
Army Air Force – Europe
World War II
8th Air Force
10 Sep 44 – 25 Apr 45



CPL Samuel Trevino
Army – Europe
World World II
106th Inf Div
16 Dec 44 – 4 Apr 45



PFC Samuel Pewewardy
Army – Europe
World War II
106th Inf Div
19 Dec 44 – 2 Apr 45



CPL Dennis Karty
Army – Korea
Korean War
2nd Inf Div
Captured 18 May 50
Died in Captivity 30 Mar 52



LtCol Meech Tahsequah
Air Force – Korea
Korean War
3rd Maint & Spt Squadron
Reported missing 6 Dec 50
Declared dead 28 Feb 54 (BNR)

7) DIED ON ACTIVE DUTY



Teddy Tahsuda



Chester Tieyah



Richard Wichita



William Kerchee

Teddy Tahsuda, Army Air Force on 23 Feb 43 in a hotel fire in Hobbs, NM.

Forrest Sunrise Tabbyyetchy, Army on 1 Jan 44 in training accident in England (Photo not available).

James Chockpoyah Jr, on 26 Jul 48 in auto accident in Oklahoma (Photo not available).

Chester Tieyah, Army on 9 Jul 50 in military vehicle accident in Japan.

Wendell Weryackewe, Marine Corps on 7 June 54 cause of death unknown (Photo not available).

Elbert Vidana, Army on 9 Sep 55 in auto accident in Germany (Photo not available).

Albino Badillo, Air Force on 17 February 76 from unknown illness in Korea (Photo not available).

Anthony Tahsequah, Army on 23 Nov 83 in auto accident in Oklahoma (Photo not available).

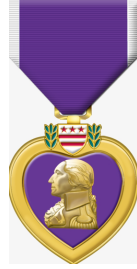
Roberta Burgess Rosemark, Air Force in 1985 in Europe, cause of death unknown (Photo not available).

Richard Wichita, Navy on 3 Aug 01 in auto accident in Virginia.

William Kerchee, Navy on 20 Jan 07 by a drunk driver in Italy.

“This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave”

8) NUMU WOUNDED WARRIORS (63)



World War II and Iraq War Wounded Warriors – Nothing changes



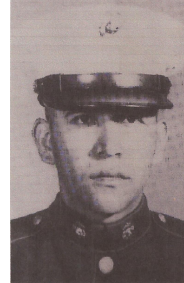
Frank LeBarre
World War I
First Comanche Wounded
on 7 November 1917



Meech Tahsequah
World War II
Wounded thrice



Edward Yellowfish
Korean War
Wounded once



Otto Tonips
Vietnam War
Wounded twice



Charles Eatmon
War on Terrorism
Wounded twice

World War I (8 – all deceased), Calvin Atchavit, Army; Gilbert Conwoop, Army; Frank LeBarre, Army; Edward Nahquaddy Sr, Army; Samuel Tabbytosavit, Army; Mikey Tahdooahnippah, Army; Cleveland Tahpay, Army; Jacob Wahkinney, Army.

World War II (27 – all deceased, six killed in action, two died of wounds), Henry Conwoop, Army (DOW), Eli Hosetosavit, Army (KIA); Thomas Chockpoyah, Army (KIA); Melvin Myers, Army (KIA); Henry Kosechata, Army (DOW); Johnnie Rivas, Army (KIA); Ben Trevino, Army (KIA); Gilbert Vidana, Army (KIA); Floyd Paddyaker (2) Army; Larry Saupitty (2), Army; Meech Tahsequah (2) Army Air Force; Lawrence Tomah Jr (2), Army; Samuel Chahtinneyackque, Army; Clifford Chebahtah Sr, USMC; Mead Chibitty, Army; Edward Clark, USMC; Lamont Howery, Army; Forrest Kassanavoid, Army; Gilbert Monatoboy, Army; Malcolm Tate Nevaquaya Sr, Army; Perry Noyobad, Army; Wilbur Parker, Army; Ralph Pewewardy, Army; Henry Tomahsah, Army; Herbert Vidana, Army; Myers Wahnee Sr, Army Air Force; Willis Yackeschi, Army

Korean War (5 – all deceased, one died in captivity and one declared while missing in action), Meech Tahsequah, Air Force (declared dead while missing in action); Dennis Karty, Army (DIC); Fernel Mihecoby, Army; Roderick Red Elk, Army; Edward Yellowfish, Army.

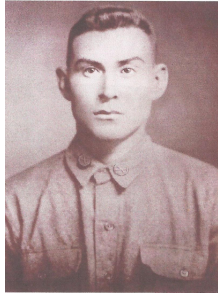
Vietnam War (19 – two killed in action), Russell Pesewonit, USMC (KIA); Robert Pahcheka, USMC (KIA); Cloyce Choney (2), Army; Otto Tonips (2), USMC; Clifford Chebahtah Jr, USMC; Milton Codynah, Army; Lawrence Kassanavoid, Army; Charles Kaudle-Kaule, USMC; Kenneth Looking Glass, USMC; Lucien Looking Glass, USMC; Timothy Ototivo, USMC; Leland Parker, USMC; George Red Elk, Army; Philip Rogers Sr, USMC; Richard Sapcutt, USMC; Patrick Tahchawwickah, Army; Malcom Taunah, USMC, Johnny Tiddark, Army; Ralph Wermey, Army.

Iraq and Afghanistan Wars (5 – one killed in action), Joshua Ware, USMC (KIA), Charles Eatmon (2) Army; Christopher Chebahtah (2) Army, Joseph Gonzalez, Army; Jeffery Almand, Army.

Note: Meech Tahsequah was wounded three times, Lawrence Tomah Jr, Floyd Paddyaker, Larry Saupitty, Cloyce Choney, Otto Tonips, Charles Eatmon, Christopher Chebahtah were all wounded twice.

“All right, they're on our left, they're on our right, they're in front of us, they're behind us – we finally got them where we want them”

9) OLDEST COMANCHE VETERANS



Lawrence Bruce Tomah Sr



Leroy Esadooah



Thurman Ray Tahsuda

Lawrence Bruce Tomah Sr was born on 17 Dec 1890 and passed away on 17 Aug 1989 at age 99 years. He completed Basic Training at Deming, NM and was enroute to Europe when the war ended.

Leroy Esadooah was born on 25 August 1925 and passed away on 25 April 2025 at age 102 years. He served with the 16th Troop Carrier Squadron in North Africa, Sicily and Italy in the Army Air Force.

Thurman Ray Tahsuda was born on 4 July 1926 and lives in Anadarko, OK. He served with the 65th Infantry Division in Europe with the Army – he is the only living World War II veteran,

10) KNOWN LIVING KOREAN WAR/KOREAN WAR ERA VETERANS



Johnny Brown
Army, in-country
12 Sep 29



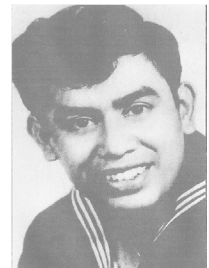
Robert Atchavit
Army, Japan
6 Aug 30



Billy Joe Wermey
Army, in-country
25 Sep 32



Wanda Clark Earl
WAC, Germany
3 Jul 32



Jimmy Caddo
Navy, in-country
16 Sep 32



Korean War and Vietnam War Memorials in Washington DC

11) KNOWN VIETNAM WAR VETERANS THAT SERVED IN-COUNTRY

Lanny Asepermy, Robert Atchavit, Bruno, Felix, John and Joseph Badillo, James Blackshear, Oliver Blackstar, Donald Burgess, Gerard Burton, Jimmy Caddo (oldest living Vietnam War veteran), Scott Cato, James and Joseph Chebahtah, Eddie Chockpoyah, Cloyce Choney, Darrell Chrismon, Benjamin and Mark Clark, Pete Coffey Jr, Wilbur Red Red Elk Ellis, Lonnie Henderson, Melvin Kerchee Jr, Donald Koassechony, Calvin Kosechata, Rudolph Kosechequetah, Larry Laurenzana, William Lewis, Lucien and Kenneth Looking Glass, Ludolph Lorentino, Ronald Mahsetky, Amos Makes Cry, Belva Miller, Michael Monatoboy, Jack Mullen, Richard Tidemark Ortiz, James, Leland and Roderick Parker, Elton Permansu, Richard Sapcutt, Clifford and Robert Allen Red Elk, Philip Roger Sr, Allen Schwerer, John Tahah, Pat Tahdooahnippah, Clifford Takawana, Paul Tate Sr, Malcom Taunah, Roger and Vernon Tehauno, Johnny Tiddark, Michael and William Waddle, Billy F. and George Wermey, Chad Winnerchy.

There are an estimated 270 living Comanche veterans (20.6% of all that served).

12) NUMU PUKUTSI

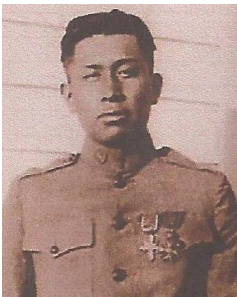


Kelly Haney painting of a Comanche Warrior “Standing his Ground” and Blackbear Bosin painting of a Numu Pukutsi

Comanche veterans that have been decorated for either gallantry, heroism, bravery or heroism or fought and killed the enemy in Hand to Hand Combat – there was once a very elite group of Contrary Warriors among the Comanches called *Pukutsi* (also known as Crazy Dog Soldiers). The *Pukutsi* was brave to the extreme point beyond the foolhardy stage. The origin of the *Pukutsi* is obscure and the idea behind the behavior of these fearless Warriors was not handed down. *“Any man brave enough and desiring to do so could become a Pukutsi. No one ever bothered a Pukutsi because he was so recklessly brave. He wore a long sash around his waist and in battle he rolled out his sash, stuck the free end into the ground with an arrow and took his stand. He stood tethered by his sash until victory was won or death took him. A Pukutsi is afraid of nothing. There are not many men such as these among the Comanches.”*



Decorations for Gallantry, Heroism, Valor or Bravery, left to right. **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS** second highest military decoration for extraordinary gallantry in combat with an armed enemy force; **SILVER STAR** third highest military decoration for gallantry in combat with an armed enemy force; **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS** for an distinguished act of heroism while participating in aerial flight; **SOLDIERS MEDAL** for heroism not involving conflict with the enemy; **MARINE MEDAL** for heroism not involving conflict with the enemy; **BRONZE STAR WITH/VALOR DEVICE** for heroism in a combat zone against an armed enemy; **AIR MEDAL WITH/VALOR DEVICE** for heroism while participating in aerial flight against an armed enemy; **ARMY COMMENDATION WITH/VALOR DEVICE** for heroism against an armed enemy force; **NAVY/MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION** for heroism against an armed enemy force; **NAVY/MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT** for combat bravery; **VIETNAM GALLANTRY COROSS WITH/GOLD STAR** presented by the Republic of Vietnam government for bravery; **BELGIUM WAR CROSS** presented by the Belgium government for bravery.



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PVT Calvin Atchavit
Army – World War I
90th Division
Distinguished Service Cross
Belgium War Cross

MSgt Edward Clark
USMC – World War II
1st Marine Division
Silver Star
Marine medal
Commendation w/V

SGT Lee Toquothty
Army – Korean War
7th Infantry Division
Silver Star

1LT Michael Waddle
Army – Vietnam War
82nd Airborne Division
Silver Star

SSG George Red Elk
Army Vietnam War
11th ACR
Silver Star

“We sleep peacefully in our bed at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on our behalf”



LtCol Meech Tahsequah
Army Air Force – WWII
376th Bomb Gp
DFC (3)



Maj Vincent Myers Sr
Army Air Force – WWII
340th Bomb Gp
DFC (2)



Brig Gen Jonathan George
Air force - Cold War
9th Recon Wing
DFC



SGM Rudolph Kosechequetah
Army – Vietnam War
5th Infantry Division
Soldiers medal



CPT Edwin Chappabitty
Army – Vietnam War
25th Infantry Division
Bronze Star w/V (2)
ARCOM w/V



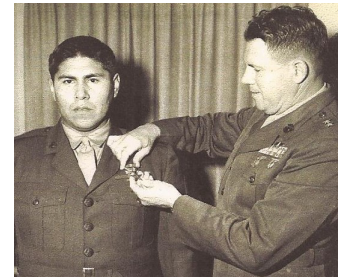
CPT Cloyce Choney
Army Vietnam War
101st Airborne Division
Bronze Star w/V (2)



MSG Calvin
Pohawpatchoko
Army – WWII
63rd Infantry Div
Bronze Star w/V



Cpt Raymond Portillo
USMC – WWII
1st Marine Division
Bronze Star w/V



Sgt Lucien Looking Glass
USMC – Vietnam War
3rd Marine Division
Bronze Star w/V



SGT Richard Ortiz
Army – Vietnam War
1st Cavalry Division
Bronze Star w/V



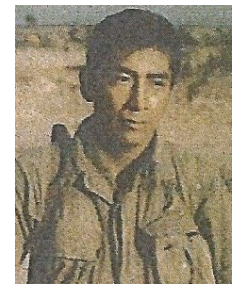
CPT Johnny Tiddark
Army -- Vietnam War
Military Advisory
Bronze Star w/V



SGT Kenneth Hernasy
Army – Vietnam War
5th Special Forces
Bronze Star w/V



SP4 Lawrence
Kassanavoid
Army – Vietnam War
25th Infantry Division
Bronze Star w/V
ARCOM w/V



SGT Brown Lightfoot
Army Vietnam War
25th Infantry Division
Bronze Star w/V
ARCOM w/V
Gallantry Cross w/Gold Star



CPT Ronald Parker
Army – Vietnam War
1st Infantry Division
Bronze Star w/V



SP5 Joseph Plata
Army – Vietnam War
1st Cavalry Division
Air Medal w/V



LCpl Philip Roger Sr
USMC – Vietnam War
1st Marine Division
Commendation w/V

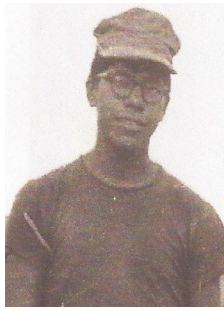


Amos Makes Cry
Army – Vietnam War
9th Infantry Division
Commendation w/V

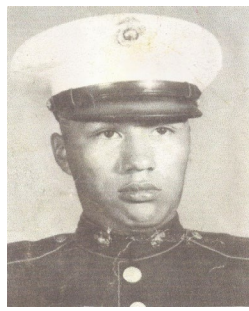


1LT Kristopher Wermey
Army – Afghanistan War
82nd Airborne Division
Commendation w/V

“A nation that forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten”



Cpl Leland Parker
USMC – Vietnam War
3rd Marine Division
Achievement w/V



Cpl Lewis Chasenah
USMC – Vietnam War
1st Marine Division
Achievement w/V



Cpl Joshua Ware
USMC – Iraq War
1st Marine Division
Achievement w/V

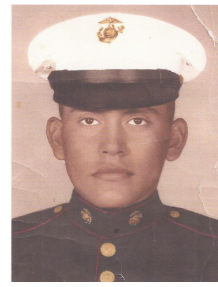


SSgt Lindsey Griner
USMC – Afghanistan War
1st Marine Expeditionary Force
Achievement w/V

Note: DFC denotes Distinguished Flying Cross - w/V denotes with/Valor Device or Distinguished Combat Device (USMC)



Cpl Edmond Mahseet
USMC – Vietnam War
1st Marine Division



Sgt Ronald Mahsetky
USMC – Vietnam War
1st Marine Division

Fought and killed the enemy in Hand to Hand combat



The Congressional Medal of Honor (MOH) is the highest combat award in the US military. 1,522 MOH have been awarded including 32 American Indians, 16 during the Indian Wars, 8 during World War II, 5 during the Korean War and 3 during the Vietnam War. The last American Indian to receive the MOH was Michael E. Thornton, a Navy SEAL for action on 31 October 1972 near Cua Viet Naval Base, South Vietnam. He is a Cherokee Indian from South Carolina.

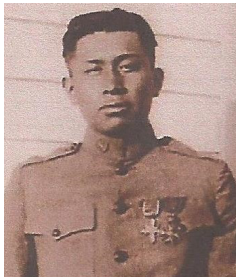
**“It is the Soldier, not the minister that gives us freedom of religion,
It is the Soldier, not the reporter that gives us the freedom of the press,
It is the Soldier, not the poet that gives the freedom of speech,
It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer that gives us the freedom to protest,
It is the Soldier, not the lawyer that gives us the freedom to a fair trial,
It is the Soldier, not the politician that gives us the right to vote,
It is the Soldier who salutes the flag, who serves beneath flag and whose coffin is draped by the flag,
that allows the protester to burn the flag”**

13) CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL & COMANCHE CODE TALKERS



The Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) is an award bestowed by the United States Congress. The CGM and Presidential Medal of Freedom are the highest civilian awards of the United States. It is awarded to persons “who have performed an achievement to be recognized as a major achievement in the recipient's field long after the achievement.” It was signed into law by President George W. Bush on 15 October 2008 and presented to the Comanche Nation, in Emancipation Hall, Washington DC, on 20 November 2013.

WORLD WAR I CODE TALKERS WERE MEMBERS OF THE 357TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 90TH DIVISION, AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.



Calvin Atchavit
1893 - 1944



George Clark
1896 - 1944



Gilbert Conwoop
1894 - 1962

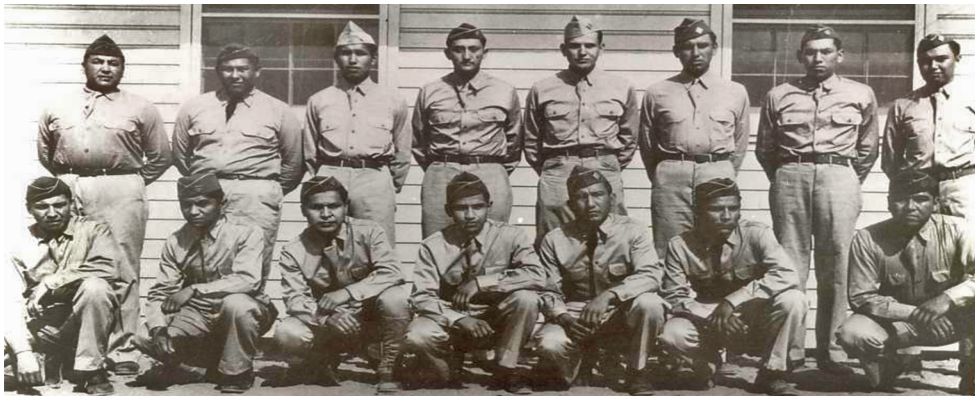


Edward A. Nahquaddy Sr
1894 - 1974



Samuel Tabbytosavit
1896 - 1970

WORLD WAR II CODE TALKERS WERE MEMBERS OF THE 4TH SIGNAL COMPANY, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION.



Bottom row, left to right, Roderick Red Elk (1923-97); Simmons Parker (1916-83); Larry Saupitty (1922-65); Melvin Permansu (1920-65); Willis Yackeschi (1921-85); Charles Chibitty (1921-2005); Wellington Mihecoby (1914-75); Top row, left to right, Morris Sunrise Tabbyyetchy (1914-83); Perry Noyobad (1921-68); Ralph Wahnee (1921-87); Haddon Codynah (1915-83); Robert Holder (1916-77); Edward Nahquaddy Jr (1920-98) Clifford Otativo Sr (1920-80); Forrest Kassanavoid (1921-96) – not in photo Elgin Red Elk (1919-59); Anthony Tabbytite (1921-2004), Photo taken at Fort Benning, GA

The Code Talkers have buildings named in their honor on Fort Sill, OK and Fort Benning, GA (for Charles Chibitty); Granite Dyes have been placed in their honor at the Comanche Nation Complex and Walters, OK Cemetery; a portion of Highway 277, west of Walters, OK is called the Code Talker Trailway; the Comanche Nation named their Meeting Room the Code Talker Meeting Room; life-size Memorials have been placed at the Comanche Nation Complex called the Spirit Talker and at Camp Beauregard, LA; a Code Talker “Star” has been placed at the Stockyards in Fort Worth, TX in their honor; the CIVA attended the 70th, 75th and 80th anniversary of the Code Talkers landing on Utah Beach, in Normandy, France in 2014, 2019 and 2024.



Code Talker Hall on Fort Sill



Code Talker Meeting Room



Comanche Code Talker Trailway between on Highway 5 between I-44 and Walters, OK

14) OKLAHOMA MILITARY HALL OF FAME



Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame Medallion

The Oklahoma Heritage Foundation has sponsored the OK Military Hall of Fame since 1999. Their mission is to appreciate and share the distinctive and gallant history of our great state. From state hood through the World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold and Gulf wars and the Global War on Terrorism in which Oklahoma service men and women have played and continue to play a major role in the defense of our nation. Two-hundred fifty-nine individuals and ten units/organizations have been inducted into the Hall since 1999 including six individual Comanches and one group of Comanche veterans. One Comanche is pending induction.



Charles Chibitty 2002



George Red 2011



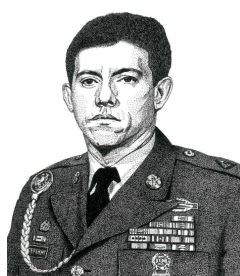
Comanche Code Talkers 2011



Cloyce Choney 2020



Edwin Chappabitty 2023



Lanny Asepermy 2024



Michael Waddle 2025



Jonathan George
Nominated 2025

"The object of war is not to die for your country but make the other bastard die for his"

**15) OKLAHOMA MILITARY HALL OF HONOR
(THEADWELL-POOLAW SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA CHAPTER 17)
Ambassador Lanny Asepermy**



OK Military Hall of Honor medallion

The Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation has sponsored the Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor since 2023. There are many heroic and patriotic Oklahomans deserving of significant recognition. The Hall of Honor was established to expand the impact of the Heritage Foundation and honor these veterans.



Inductees on Veterans Day 2024, top row, left to right, Lyman Guy, Army Vietnam War; Roger Tehauno, Air Force Vietnam War; Michael Squire, Army Afghanistan War; Michael Waddle, Army Vietnam War; Clifford Red Elk, Army Vietnam War; John B. McClung, Army & OKARNG, Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan Wars; second row left to right, Clifford Takawana, Vietnam War; Kevin Pohawpatchoko, Operation Praying Mantis, Iraq & Afghanistan Wars; James Patterson Jr, Navy Iraq and Afghanistan Wars; Jonathan George, Air Force, Afghanistan War; Frankie Patterson, Army Iraq and Afghanistan Wars; Dominic Pawlowski, USMC and OKARNG Iraq War, bottom row left to right, Lanny Asepermy, Army Vietnam War (Inducted 1 October 2023), Ramonah Davis, Army US Paratrooper; Cynthia Patterson, Navy Afghanistan War.



Inductees Armed Forces Day 2025, left to right, Richard Ortiz, Army Vietnam War; Philip Rogers Sr, USMC Vietnam War; William Waddle, Army Vietnam War; Paul Tate Jr, Army, Vietnam War; Johnny Tidemark, Army Vietnam War; Lucien Looking Glass, USMC Vietnam War; Rudolph Kosechequetah, Army Vietnam War, Ellis Briggs, Army Vietnam War, Wilbur Red Elk Ellis, Army Vietnam War; Billy J. Wermy, Army, Korean War.



Inductees 4 July 2025, left to right, Gordon Whitewolf, Army Gulf War; Billy F. Wermey, Army Vietnam War; Joseph Plata, Army Vietnam War; Leland Parker, USMC Vietnam War; Amos Makes Cry, Army Vietnam War; Ronald Mahsetky, USMC Vietnam War; Jimmy Horse, Army Vietnam War; Lonnie Henderson, Air Force Vietnam war; Lindsey Griner, USMC Afghanistan War; Thomas Boyt, Air Force, AF Academy graduate.

As of 15 August 2025 there are 150 Oklahoma veterans in the Oklahoma Hall of Honor – there are about 244,334 living Oklahoma veterans. On Veterans Day 2025 the Theadwell-Poolaw Chapter 17 will induct Leander Eckiwauah, Richard Sapcutt and Stefano Ruiz and on Armed Forces Day 2026 they will induct Elanor McDaniel, Donna Harris, Rhonda Williams and Stormy Bennett.

16) COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE, COMBAT ACTION RIBBON, COMBAT ACTION BADGE & COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE



Combat Infantryman Badge – Combat Infantry Badge with/Star (second award)

The Combat Infantryman Badge is awarded (to Army Infantrymen only) for performing duties while personally being present and under fire while actively engaged in active ground combat. The Badge was established on 13 November 1943.



Lawrence Tomah Jr

Awarded the CIB two times

Calvin Pohawpatchoko photo is with the Numu Pukutsi

Forty-seven Comanche veterans have earned this Badge including two twice - Calvin Pohawpatchoko (WWII & Korea War) and Lawrence Tomah Jr (WWII & Korean War), other awardees are Lanny Asepermy (Vietnam); James Blackshear (Vietnam); Jesse Blackstar (Iraq); Johnny Brown (Korea); Christopher Chebahtah (Iraq); Mead Chibitty (WWII), Thomas Chockpoyah (WWII); Cloyce Choney (Vietnam); Milton Codynah (Vietnam); Henry Conwoop (WWII); Charles Eatmon (Iraq); Wilbur Red Elk Ellis (Vietnam); Lyman Guy (Vietnam); Charles Hernasy (Vietnam); Dennis Karty (Korea); Lawrence Kassanavoid (Vietnam); Larry Laurenzana (Vietnam); William Lewis (Vietnam); Brown Lightfoot (Vietnam); Wesley Mihecoby (Korea); Eugene Mithlo (Vietnam); Gilbert Monatoboy (WWII); Melvin Myers (WWII); Raymond Nauni Sr (WWII); Malcolm Tate Nevaquaya Jr (Vietnam); Wilbur Parker (WWII); Frankie Patterson (Iraq); Laverne Pennah (Korea); Samuel Pewewardy Jr (WWII); Clifford Red Elk (Vietnam); Johnnie Rivas (WWII); Louis Rivas (Korea); Thurman Ray Tahsuda (WWII); Jackie Tooahimpah Tate (Vietnam); Paul Tate Jr (Vietnam); Johnny Tiddark (Vietnam), Kent O. Tomah (Korea); Michael Waddle (Vietnam); William Waddle (Vietnam); Dennis Wahkinney (Vietnam); Billy Joe Wermey (Korea); Kristopher Wermey (Afghanistan); Edward Yellowfish (Korea).

"I am a Soldier, I fight where I am told and win where I fight"



Combat Action Ribbon – Combat Action Ribbon with/Gold Star (second award)

The Combat Action Ribbon is awarded to Navy/Marine Corps personnel for active participation in ground or surface combat. The Ribbon was established on 7 December 1941.



Kevin Pohawpatchoko
Awarded the Combat Action Ribbon two times
Edward Louis Clark photo with Numu *Pukutsi*

Thirty Comanche veterans have been awarded the Combat Action Ribbon including two twice – Edward Louis Clark (USMC) during World War II and the Korean War and Kevin Pohawpatchoko (Navy) during Operation Praying Mantis and the Afghanistan/Iraq Wars. Other awardees include Brandon Allen (Iraq); Clifford Chebahtah (Vietnam); Darrell Chrismon (Vietnam); Edward Clark (WWII); Louis Clark (Vietnam); Leander Eckiwaudah (Gulf War); Randall Eckiwaudah (Iraq); Lindsey Griner (Iraq) – only Comanche female awarded the CAR; Tommy Johnson (Vietnam); Lucien Looking Glass (Vietnam); Edmond Mahseet (Vietnam); Ronald Mahsetky (Vietnam); John B McClung (Afghanistan) – only Soldier awarded the CAR; Timothy Ototivo (Vietnam); Robert Pahcheka (Vietnam); James W. Parker (Vietnam); James Patterson (Iraq); Elton Permansu (Vietnam); Russell Pesewonit (Vietnam); Raymond Portillo (WWII); Jason Red Elk (Gulf War); Philip Rogers Sr (Vietnam); Stefano Ruiz; Richard Sapcutt (Vietnam); Randolph Seahmer (Vietnam); Gregory Steen (Iraq); Benny Tahmahkera (Iraq); Malcom Taunah (Iraq); Vernon Tehauno (Vietnam).



Combat Action Badge

The Combat Action Badge is awarded to non-Infantry Army personnel that were actively engaging or being engaged by the enemy. Badge established 18 September 2001.



Vena Tahkofper



Karli Wahkahquah



Rhonda Williams

Eleven Comanche veterans have been awarded the Combat Action Badge. Jeffery Almand (Iraq); Jacob Chebahtah (Iraq); Michael Frickie (Iraq); Tennyson Kerchee (Iraq); John B, McClung (Afghanistan); Rudy Rodriguez (Iraq); Tanner Satepauhoodle (Afghanistan); Vena Tahkofper (Iraq); Karli Wahkahquah (Iraq); Rhonda Williams (Afghanistan); Randolph Zambrana (Afghanistan) - Tahkofper, Wahkahquah and Williams are the only Comanche female soldiers awarded the CAR.

“No sir, I will not abandon my tank, my gun is still working and I will get those bastards”



Combat Medical Badge

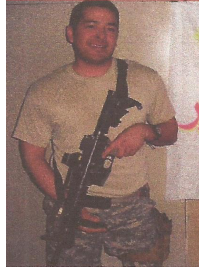
The Combat Medical Badge is awarded to Army personnel performing medical duties while being engaged by the enemy, Established (retroactive) on 6 December 1941.



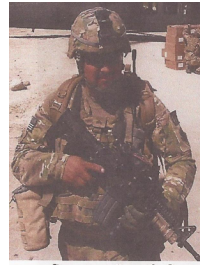
Samuel Chahtinneyackque



Lonnie Komahcheet



Gregory Cole



Joseph Gonzalez



Michael Squire

Eight Comanche veterans have been awarded the Combat Medical Badge. Samuel Chahtinneyackque (WWII); Ben Trevino (WWII – Photo with Fallen Warriors); Fernel Mihecoby (Korea- No photo available); Kenneth Hernasy (Vietnam – Photo with Numu *Pukutsi*); Lonnie Komahcheet (Vietnam); Gregory Cole (Iraq); Joseph Gonzalez (Iraq); Michael Squire (Afghanistan). Note: one Comanche, William Joyce Mihecoby (No photo available) served as a Navy Corpsman during the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

17) US PARATROOPERS



Army Parachutists Badge
5 Qualified Jumps



Army Senior Parachutists
30 Qualified Jumps
15 with combat equipment



Army Master Parachutists
65 Qualified Jumps
25 with combat equipment



Army Parachutists Badge
with/1 combat jump



Navy/Marine Corps Parachutists Badge

The Army and Navy/Marine Parachutists Badges are awarded to personnel that meet the criteria for the badges.

Thirty Army and two Marine Corps Comanche veterans have been awarded Parachutists Badges. They are Anthony Beasley; James Blackshear; Edwin Chappabitty; Clifford Chebahtah Jr (Marine Corps); Cloyce and Eric Choney (both Master Parachutists Badges); Gregory Cole; Leander Eckiwaudah (Marine Corps); Wilbur Red Elk Ellis (Master Parachutists and HALO Badges); Kenneth Hernasy; Baliente Herrera, William Lundy; Tahtziltoey Mithlo (one of two Women paratroopers); Melvin Myers (1 Combat Jump); Johnny Rivas (1 Combat Jump); Ronald Russell; Kyle Smith; William Southard; Donald Sovo; Michael Squire; Jackie Tooahimpah and Paul Tate Sr; Johnny Tiddark; Nabor Villicana, Michael and William Waddle; Stefan Wahkinney; Kristopher Wermey; Gordon Whitewolf; Rhonda Williams (one of two women paratroopers); Mark Woommavovah; Harley Yackeschi.



Cloyce Choney



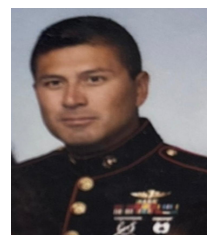
Eric Choney



Clifford Chebahtah Jr.



Wilbur Red Elk Ellis



Leander Eckiwaudah

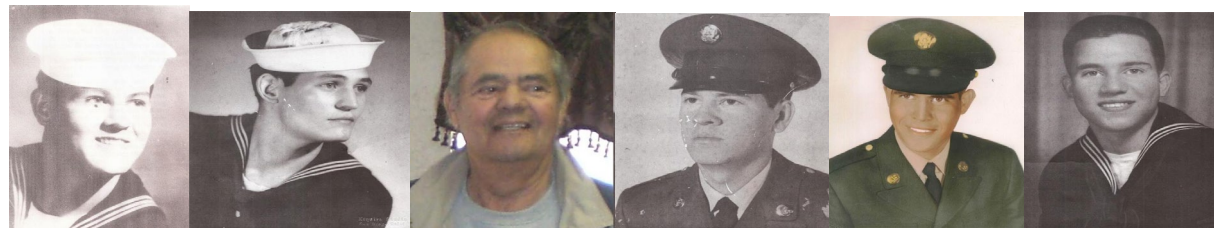
18) FAMILY MILITARY SERVICE

Six brothers from the Davis and Bennett families served in the military, The Davis brothers are great-grandsons of Quannah Parker. Their parents are John Wesley Bennett and Nora Mo-my-ite Davis.



Left to right, Curtis Davis (Navy); Emmett Davis (Navy); Jackson Davis (Navy); John Davis (Navy); Eugene Davis (Navy); Charles Davis (Navy).

The Bennett brothers are the sons of Tommy and Mary Pahcaddy Bennett.



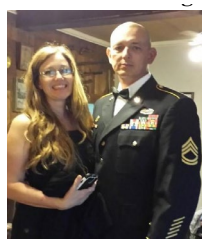
Left to right, Paul Bennett (Navy); Terrance Bennett (Navy); Jerry Bennett (Navy); Elmer Bennett (Army); Douglas Bennett (Army); Clay Bennett (Navy)

19) SERVED IN THREE WARS

Three Comanche veterans have served in three wars – Calvin Pohawpatchoko (Photo with Numu *Pukutsi*) in World War II, Korean and Vietnam Wars; Kenneth Atauvich and John B. McClung in the Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq Wars.



Kenneth Atauvich



John B. McClung

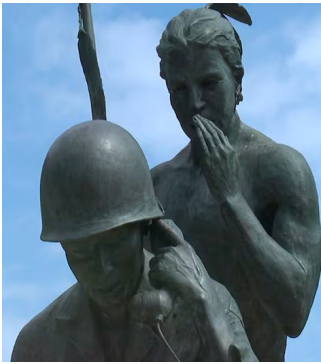
20) WAR DEATHS

US Military deaths during World War I 116,516; World War II 405,399; Korea 36,574; Vietnam 58,209; Gulf War 294; Iraq 4,576; Afghanistan 2,432 for a total of 624,000 – also of the 16,400,000 Americans served during World War II only 66,143 (.004%) are alive today with the youngest now 98 years old.



21) COMANCHE VETERAN MEMORIALS, PATRIOTIC ROOM, VIDEOS, BOOKS, BOOKLETS, WATER POINT, HIGHWAYS & BUILDINGS

The Comanche Nation has four Veteran Memorials - the CIVA Court of Honor which has 11 large dyes with about 1,188 names, rank, branch of service, dates served of Comanche veterans, 1 dye with the names of 13 Fallen Warriors and 5 Prisoners of War, and 1 dye with the names of the 30 Numu Pukutsi on the front side and the names of 63 Wounded Warriors on the back, it also has 6 flag poles for the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard flags. There are also 48 bricks with names, rank, branch of service and dates of service of Comanche veterans. The Code Talker Memorial is a life-size statue of a "Spirit Talker" with the photos of the 22 Comanche Code Talkers. The Court was established about 1980 by the CIVA with the Code Talker Memorial dedicated in 2003. The photo on the right is Charles Chibitty, the last living Code Talker, during the dedication of the Code Talker Memorial in 2003. The Court was renovated in 2005 by Albert Clark Jr and Lanny Asepermy.



The War Scout Circle of Honor has 18 individual dyes with the names and brief bio's of the 13 Fallen Warrior and 5 Prisoners of War. The Circle was designed by Melvin Kerchee Jr, Lanny Asepermy and Ed Briggs and dedicated in 1994.



Tahsequah Garden has a POW/MIA flag and Memorial about Meech Tahsequah, the only Comanche veteran whose body has not been recovered. It was dedicated in 2013 and established by George Red Elk and Lanny Asepermy.



The Comanche Veterans Patriotic Room has about 744 veterans photos with brief bio's and a number of other military related photos, flags, lance, bow and arrow, encased bald eagle, 6 glass panels of the military branch seals at the entrance 6 glass panels on the inside exit with information, quilts and banners about Comanche veterans during the Indian Wars, Troop L, 7th Cavalry, World Wars I & II, the Korean, Vietnam, Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq Wars, a panel of the Numu *Pukutsi*, a panel of the OK Military Hall of Fame inductees, a panel of the first 14 OK Military Hall of Honor inductees, a panel with CIVA activities, and photos and bio's of a number of Comanche veterans and current and past CIVA Princesses. The Patriotic Room was established in 2013 by Lanny Asepermy.



Outside panels of the Patriotic Room with logos of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force Space Force and Coast Guard and information about the establishment of the Patriotic Room. (Mike Espinoza on left putting finishing touches on left door panel).

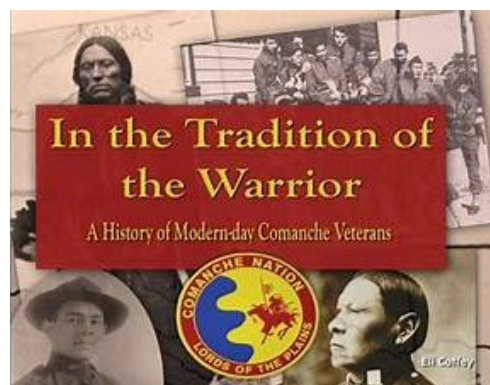


Inside panels with 104 Comanche veterans photos displayed and the Comanche veteran role during the Indian Wars, while serving with Troop L, 7th Cavalry and Army Scouts from 1891-97 and during World Wars I & II, the Korean, Vietnam, Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq Wars. Also photos of the Numu *Pukutsi*, OK Military Hall of Fame and Hall of Honor inductees and photos of CIVA activities.

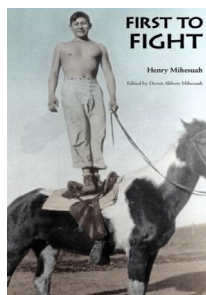
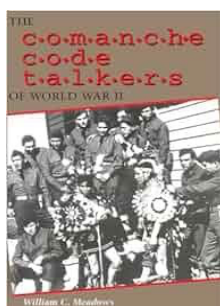


Patriotic Room displays with a number of veterans photos and bio's and the Bald Eagle encased in the center and Fallen Warrior statue on the left and Wounded Warriors statue on the right.

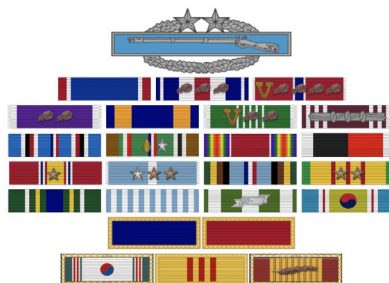
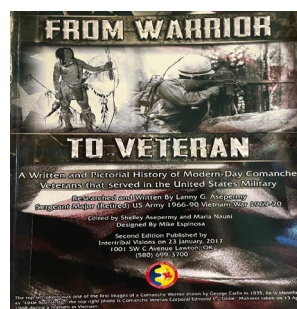
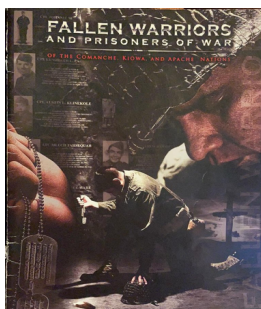
VIDEOS - There have been two videos released and two books about Comanche veterans. The videos can be viewed on YOU TUBE. “In the Tradition of the Warrior” - A History of Modern-day Comanche Veterans by Mike Tosee and Bill Curtis. It is an 89-minute documentary and debuted in 2007. “The Warrior Tradition” is a 55-minute video by Lawrence Hott for PBS. Debuted on 11 November 2019 (Veterans Day) nationwide.



BOOKS - “The Comanche Talkers of World War II” was written by Dr. William Meadows and published in 2003, a second edition is due out in 2025. “The First To Fight” is book about Henry Mihsuah written and published by his daughter Devon Abbott Mihsuah in 2010. The books can be purchased on-line, First To Fight hardcover \$19.99 and The Comanche Code Talkers of World War II hardcover \$29.99.



BOOKLETS – “Fallen Warriors and Prisoners of War” of the Comanche, Kiowa and Apache Tribes is a 34-page booklet written by Lanny Asepermy in 2007. “From Warrior to Veteran” is a 92-page booklet also written by Asepermy in 2017. The booklets are no longer available.



First Lieutenant Pascal Cletus Poolaw, a Kiowa Indian from Apache, OK, is the most decorated American Indian in military history. He was born on 29 January 1922 and killed in action, in Vietnam, on 7 November 1967 (age 45 years) Fought in World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Decorated 13 times for heroism, wounded 3 times, earned 14 Battle Stars.

EUGENE MITHLO SR.
 JANUARY 1840 - JANUARY 2008
 THE WATER RIGHT THOUGHT WORTH
 IN HIS WATER PIONEERING OF 1937, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008



CPL JOSHUA JEROLD WARE
MEMORIAL HIGHWAY



**American Legion
Meech Tahsequah
Post #6**

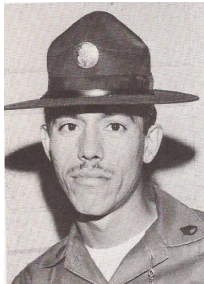


22) DRILL SERGEANTS



Drill Sergeant Identification Badge

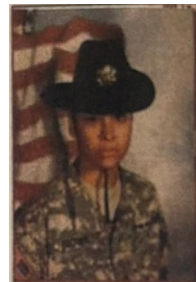
Three Comanche veterans have served as Active Duty Drill Sergeants. Lanny Asepermy, Frankie Patterson and Stephanie Brown. Three other Comanche veterans have served as Army Reserve Drill Sergeants, Jack Codopony Sr, William Hardy and Darrell Nieto.



Lanny Asepermy



Frankie Patterson



Stephanie Brown

23) ARMY RANGERS



Army Ranger Tab

Three Comanche veterans have completed the prescribed criteria of the six-week Ranger School and awarded the Army Ranger Tab. Cloyce Choney, Kyle Smith, William Lundy.



Kyle Smith



William Lundy

Cloyce Choney photo in Numu *Pukutsi* and Army Parachutist.

“Retreat hell, we are advancing in a different direction”

24) SPECIAL FORCES



Six Comanches have earned the “Green Beret” as members of the US Army Special Forces, Wilbur Red Elk Ellis, Johnny Tiddark, Cloyce Choney, Kenneth Hernasy, Patrick Craig, Michael Squire.



Patrick Craig



Michael Squire

Wilbur Red Elk Ellis photo with Army Parachutists, Johnny Tiddark photo with Numu *Pukutsi*, Cloyce Choney photo with Numu *Pukutsi* and Army Parachutists, Kenneth Hernasy photo with Numu *Pukutsi*.

25) MARINE CORPS FORCE RECON



Emblem of the Marine Corps Force Reconnaissance Force. One Comanche veteran is a certified member of the Marine Corps Force Reconnaissance, Leander Eckiwaudah.

26) PATHFINDERS



Army Pathfinders must complete the Army's Pathfinder School and then are used to set up parachute drop zones and helicopter landing zones for airborne and air assault missions, the only Comanche veteran to earn the Army Pathfinder Badge is Cloyce Choney.

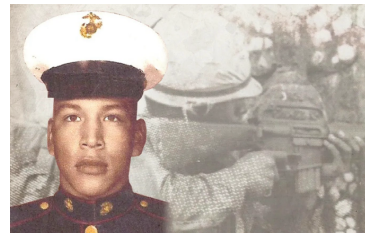
27) JUNGLE EXPERTS



Cloyce Choney



Jungle Expert Patch



Edmond Mahseet



Wilbur Red Elk Ellis



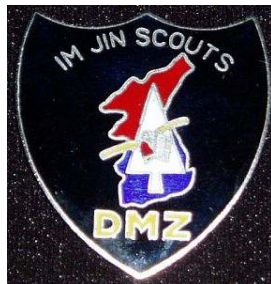
Lean Nevaquaya



Frankie Patterson

The Jungle Warfare School was at Fort Sherman, Panama from 1953-99. Upon completion of the school (known as Green Hell) individuals were awarded the Jungle Expert patch. Five Comanche veterans have earned the Jungle Expert Patch. Wilbur Red Elk Ellis (Army) Cloyce Choney (Army), Edmond Mahseet (Marine Corps), Lean Nevaquaya (Army), Frankie Patterson (Army).

28) IMJIN SCOUTS



Imjin Scout Badge (Korea)



Lanny Asepermy

The Imjin Scout Badge is awarded for completion of the 2nd Infantry Division's Advanced Combat Training Academy (aka Little Ranger School) and service in and around the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). One Comanche veteran earned the Imjin Scout Badge, Lanny Asepermy.

29) COMANCHE STAR



Brigadier General (Retired) Jonathan George is the only Comanche veteran to earn General Officer status. He also served on active longer than any other Comanche veteran (29 years, 11 months and 25 days from 4 February 1981 to 1 February 2011). Brig Gen George is also the only Comanche awarded the 3rd and 4th highest non-combat military decorations, the Defense Superior Service and the Legion of Merit (4 awards) medals (the 3 Oak Leaf Clusters not shown on Legion of Merit medal).

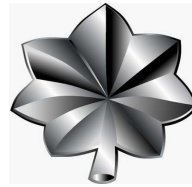
30) COLONELS (0-6), CAPTAINS (0-6) & LIEUTENANT COLONELS (0-5)



Edwin Chappabitty



Colonel & Captain Insignia



Lieutenant Colonel Insignia



Rhonda Williams



Raymond Portillo



Lawrence Yazzie



Lisa Smith



G. Woommavovah



M. Woommavovah



Dave Portillo

Two Comanche veterans have earned the rank of Colonel (0-6) – Raymond Portillo (USMC & USMC Reserve) and Lawrence Yazzie (USAF & Nebr Air Guard). Two others earned the rank of Captain (0-6) with the US Public Service – Edwin Chappabitty and Debra Aynes. Nine others earned the rank of Lieutenant Colonel (0-5) – Richard Martinez (Army & Army National Guard), Dave Portillo (Marine Corps), Kyle Smith (Army), Lisa Smith (Air Force), William Southard (Army), Meech Tahsequah (Air Force), Rhonda Williams (Army), Gerald Woommavovah (Army & Army Reserve), Mark Woommavovah (Army & Army Reserve).

Debra Aynes and Richard Martinez photos not available

31) HIGHEST MILITARY ENLISTED GRADE (E-9)



Lanny Asepermy



James Saryerwinnie



Randall Eckiwaudah

Four Comanches veterans have earned the military highest enlisted grade of E-9. Lanny Asepermy (Army Sergeant Major), Rudolph Kosechequetah (Army Sergeant Major), James Saryerwinnie (Navy Chief Master Petty Officer), Randall Eckiwaudah (Marine Corps Master Gunnery Sergeant).

SGM Rudolph Kosechequetah photo with Numu Pukutsi



Note: Sergeants Major Lanny Asepermy and Rudolph Kosechequetah are the only graduates of the US Army Sergeants Major Academy.

32) US MILITARY ACADEMY GRADUATES



Army, West Point NY



Navy/Marine Corps, Annapolis MD



Air Force, Colorado Springs CO



Thomas Boyt



George Harrington



Lawrence Yazzie

Five Comanche veterans have graduate from the three US Military Academies. Thomas Boyt, (Class of 1973) Air Force Academy; George Harrington, (Class of 1979) West Point; Lance Whitewolf (Class of 1992), Annapolis; Lawrence Yazzie (Class of 2000) Air Force Academy; Lamoni Yazzie (Class of 2002) Air Force Academy.

Note: Thomas Boyt graduated 18th out of 844 graduates and Lawrence and Lamoni Yazzie were both starters for the Division I Air Force Academy basketball team.

Lance Whitewolf and Lamoni Yazzie photos not available.

33) COMBAT DEPLOYMENTS



Wilbur Sapcut



Frankie Patterson

Air Force and Army Staff Sergeants Wilbur Sapcut and Frankie Patterson both served 42 months in “Combat Zones”. SSgt Sapcut served at Ton Son Nhut and Tuy Hoa Air Bases in a support role. SSG Patterson deployed to Iraq in 2003-04, 2007-08, 2009 and 2010 and to Afghanistan in 2009 and 2012-13 – he was an Infantryman who served with the 1st Armored Division, 1st Infantry Division, 2nd Infantry Division, 4th Infantry Division, 10th Mountain Division and 101st Airborne Division. He is the only Comanche veteran authorized to wear six different combat patches.



1st Armored Div



1st Infantry Div



2nd Infantry Div



4th Infantry Div



10th Mountain Div



101st Airborne Div

34) CAMPAIGN STARS



The World War II Asiatic-Pacific Campaign medal with 2 Silver Stars (denoting 5 campaigns each) and 1 Bronze Star denoting 1 campaign was awarded to Navy Airman Max Pahcheka while on-board the USS Minneapolis (CA-36) a Navy cruiser.

35) WOMEN VETERANS

There are 82 known Comanche women veterans. The first Comanche Woman to serve in the military was Roberta Clark Bradley (aka Weckeah). She served in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps from 2 October 1942 to 25 August 1943 and then the Women Marines from 17 December 1943 to 26 September 1945 earning the rank of Corporal.

The highest Officer rank that two attained are Lieutenant Colonel Lisa Smith (Air Force) and Rhonda Williams. The highest enlisted rank attained is Gunnery Sergeant (E-7) by Donna Harris (Marine Corps). The first Comanche woman to serve in a Combat Zone is 1LT Linda Asenap (Army Nurse Corps) during World War II. There are two Comanche women Paratroopers, Rhonda Williams and Tahtziltoey Mithlo. Three Comanche woman were awarded the Combat Action Badge, Rhonda Williams, Karli Wakhahquah and Vena Tahkofper. The only Comanche woman awarded the Combat Action Ribbon is Lindsey Griner, she is also the only Comanche woman decorated for heroism (Navy/USMC Achievement medal w/Combat Distinguishing Device)



Roberta Clark Bradley, first Comanche woman to serve in the military; Linda Asenap, Army Nurse Corps, World War II (Europe), first Comanche woman to serve in a Combat Zone; Donna Harris, Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant, highest enlisted rank of Comanche Women veterans.



Tahtziltoey Mithlo, Army Paratrooper



Eleanor McDaniel is the most decorated enlisted Comanche woman, she earned five Army Commendation and four Army Achievement medals

"I'm your average kid, I played sports in high school, had a good-looking girlfriend, had good grades, could have gone to college, but I choose to defend freedom, no matter what the price, I am a Soldier"

36) COMANCHE PILOTS

There are only three known Fixed-wing Aircraft Comanche pilots, Meech Tahsequah, Myers Wahnee Sr and Jonathan George, all members of the Air Force.

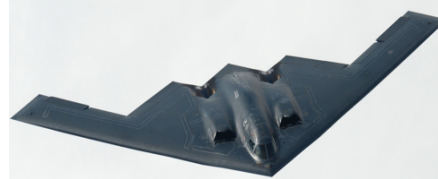


Left to right, Pilot, Master and Senior Pilot Badges

B-24 Liberator Bomber



B-2 Stealth Bomber



LtCol Meech Tahsequah

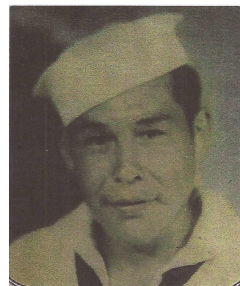


Capt Myers Wahnee Sr



Brig Gen Jonathan George

37) NAVY FROGMAN



Navy Gunner Mate Second Class Sam Pahdopony graduated from the first “Navy Frogman” class now known as Navy SEALs. He was involved in clearing landing areas of obstacles and mines while under sniper, artillery and aircraft fire during sixteen US military island landings in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

38) COMANCHE INDIAN VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

The first known local Indian veterans' organization was established after the end of World War I – it was called the “American Indian Intertribal Veterans Association (AIIVA)” and consisted of Comanche, Kiowa, Wichita, Caddo, Delaware, Cheyenne-Arapaho and Apache tribes. The members of the “Club” were World War I veterans. The AIIVA later became known as the “American Indian Veterans Association (AIVA).” On 18 August 1976 the Comanches chartered an all-Comanche veterans “Club” called the Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA). The charter principles were the first CIVA Commander Edgar Monetathchi (USMC) and Clifford Ototivo Sr (Army) and James Chasenah (Army). Recent Commanders include Nipper Tiddark, Ted Pewo, Jack Codopony Sr (3 times), George Red Elk (3 times), Kevin Pohawpatchoko (3 times), Ronald Mahsetky and currently Roger Tehauno.

Record-keeping began in 2002 and since then the CIVA have conducted 375 Military Funeral honors for mostly Comanche veterans and veterans from other tribes and non-Indian veterans. They have placed about 320 military

markers for the families of deceased veterans and provided color guards for pow-wows, fairs, parades, inaugurations, conferences, meetings, homecomings, weddings, special events, etc., In addition, they have formally honored or recognized 420 veterans. They average about 100 commitments a year.

In 2014, 2019 and 2024 the CIVA sponsored a trip to France the celebrate the landing of the Comanche Code Talkers on Utah Beach in Normandy, France.

The CIVA host three major events a year, the Armed Forces Day Banquet, Memorial Day Ceremony and Veterans Day Celebration and Pow-wow.

The CIVA has also established the CIVA Court of Honor, Tahsequah Garden and the Comanche Veterans Patriotic Room and maintain the Comanche War Scout Circle of Honor.



Photo taken on Armed Forces Day 2025 in Watchetaker Hall, seated left to right, Aurvilla Craig, Jan Marie Sapcutt, Asetoyer, Fran Sapcutt, Victoria Plata, Liz Plata with CSM Bob, Princess Clara Yazzie, Suzanne Patterson, Christine Armstrong, Wanda Czerniak, Shirley Pohawpatchoko, Tavia Torralba, standing left to right, Lyman Guy, Ramonah Davis, Darrell Yazzie, Yonevea Sapcutt, Thomas Boyt, Jolene Schonchin, Lanny Asepermy, Roger Tehauno, Betty Tippeconnie, Mark Davis, Frankie Patterson, Arlene Schonchin, Clifford Red Elk, Dominic Pawlowski, Linda Tehauno, James Czerniak, Roxie Yazzie, Kevin Pohawpatchoko, Richard Sapcutt

CHALLENGE COIN (Top left), HONORABLE SERVICE (Top center) & COMBAT SERVICE (Top right), NUMU WOUNDED WARRIOR (Bottom left), NUMU *PUKUTSI* MEDALLIONS (Bottom right) are presented to Comanche (and on occasion) to non-Comanche veterans.



QUILTS OF VALOR FOUNDATION has covered numerous Comanche veterans with their one of the kind, hand-sewn quilts to provide comfort and healing to veterans touched by war.



Quilts of Valor Foundation logo and Emilio Alfaro, Darren Asepermy, Cloyce Choney and Philip Rogers Sr after their QOV presentation.

39) COMANCHE CAMPAIGN STREAMER

The flag of the US Army has 190 Campaign Streamers including one called the COMANCHES 1867-75.



Army Flag with 190 Campaign Streamers

40) GOLD STAR FLAG



US Military Casket Flag protocol is to place an US flag on the casket of deceased service members until they are buried. In September 1944, with US casualties mounting, a shortage of casket flags prevailed. The military contracted a French garment company to produce casket flags. Knowing of the Gold Star mothers the factory produced about 500 flags with Gold Stars before they became aware of the error. After Fallen Warrior Ben Trevino was buried in France his parents received his casket flag – with Gold Stars. That flag was flown during the Comanche Nation Fair in 2007.

*“Old Soldiers never die, they just fade away
Old Soldiers never die, they just fade away
Old Soldiers never die, they just fade away
Old Soldiers never die, they just fade away”*

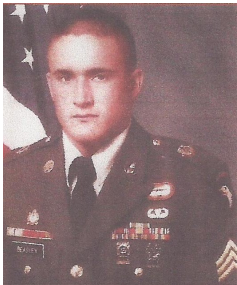
41) COMANCHE MILITARY NAMESAKE

The USS Comanche (SP-123) was a Patrol Boat that served during World War I (1917-19); the USCGC Comanche (WPG-76) is a Coast Guard Cutter that served during World War II (1941-45); The RAH-66 Comanche Stealth Helicopter was an Recon & Attack helicopter used by the Army in the 1990's; Fort Comanche is now a historical site near Comanche, TX; Comanche Army Airfield is located on Fort Sill, OK; Comanche Training Center is located on Fort Hood, TX; Comanche Base Camp is located in Bosnia Herzegovina; Task Force Comanche was a name given to the 961st Engineer Battalion by the Comanche Indian Veterans Association in 2017 - the Army Reserve battalion is based in Seagoville, TX and served in Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Turkey and Bahrain.



Comanche Base in Bosnia Herzegovina, RAH-66 Stealth Attack and Recon Army helicopter

42) COMBAT VETERANS



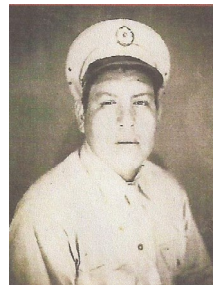
SGT Anthony Beasley
Army – Iraq War
101st Abn Div
Paratrooper



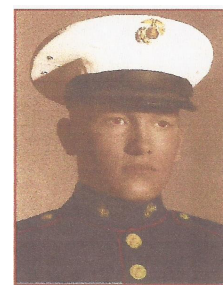
PFC Phil Cato Jr
Army – WWII
127th AAA (Europe)
Bronze Star – PH



TSgt Robert Chaat
Army Air Force – WWII
Only Comanche to serve
in Europe and Pacific



PVT Mead Chibitty
Army – WWII
100th Inf Div (Europe)
CIB, Bronze Star, PH



Cpl Darrell Chrismom
USMC – Vietnam War
1st Marine Div
Combat Action Ribbon



SGT Milton Codynah
Army – Vietnam War
4th Inf Div
CIB, Purple Heart



SFC Wesley Mihecoby
OKARNG – Korean War
45th Inf Div
Cbt Inf Badge



CPL Gilbert Monatoboy
Army – WWII
34th Inf Div (Europe)
CIB, Bronze Star, PH



PFC Raymond Nauni Sr
Army – WWII (Europe)
83rd Inf Div
CIB, Bronze Star



SSG Clyde Narcomey
OKARNG - Gulf War
45th Inf Div
Bronze Star



PVT Mikey Tahdooahrippah
Army, World War I
106th Reg Field Arty
Purple Heart



PVT Wilbur Parker
Army, WWII (Europe)
106 Inf Div
CIB, Bronze Star, PH



CPO3 Garner Pewewardy
Navy, Korea & Vietnam
USS Laws - Korea
USS Ranger – Vietnam



1SG Louis Rivas
USAAF & OKARNG
WWII (Pacific) & Korea
48 missions in Pacific



SGT William Waddle
Army, Vietnam War
173rd Airborne Bde
Cbt Inf Badge

42) DEDICATION AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION - This program is dedicated to three outstanding CIVA members – all Vietnam War veterans, all Numu *Pukutsi*. They are missed.



SP5 Joseph Rivas Plata
Army – Air medal w/V Device
27 Mar 49 – 18 Oct 18, Age 69 yrs
Fort Sill National Cemetery

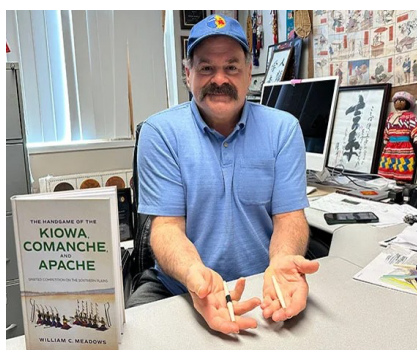


CPT Ronald Parker
Bronze Star w/V Device
4 Jan 44 – 12 Dec 22, Age 77 yrs
Fort Sill National Cemetery

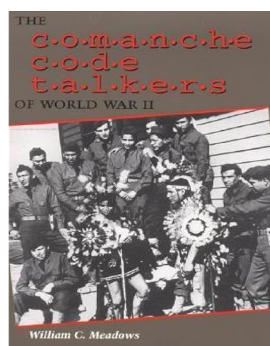


SSG George Gerald Red Elk
Army - Silver Star
29 Jan 49 – 19 Apr 23, Age 74 yrs
Deyo Indian Mission Cemetery

SPECIAL RECOGNITION to Dr. William C. “Bill” Meadows, born 14 April 1966 in Bedford, IN. Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Missouri State University in Springfield, MO. CIVA Historian since January 2022. BA 1989 - Indiana University; MA 1991 - University of Oklahoma; PHD 1995 - University of Oklahoma 1995. Author of *The Comanche Code Talkers or World War II*; *The First Code Talkers*; *Kiowa Ethnogeography*; *Through Indian Sign Language*; *Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Military Societies*; *Kiowa Military Societies*; *The Handgame of the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache*.



Dr. William C. Meadows



**The Comanche Code Talkers
of World War II book**

“Not for fame or reward, not for place or rank, not lured by ambition or necessity, but in simple obedience of duty as they understood it, they suffered all, sacrificed all and dared all”



Sergeant Ronald Mahsetky in a photo taken in 1968 while serving as a Squad Leader with D Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Marines in the I Corps area of operations in the Republic of South Vietnam.

Comanche Veterans, past to present, continue to be “LORDS OF THE PLAINS”