



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Carol Jensen, Public Affairs Liaison
Carol.Jensen@va.gov
605.720.7170
www.blackhills.va.gov

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Native American Heritage Traveling Exhibition on Display at the VA Black Hills Health Care System

In honor of National Native American Heritage month, the Department of Veterans Affairs, through the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) History Office, has created a special traveling exhibition entitled *Native American Heritage*. The exhibit highlights the contributions of Native Americans in the U.S. military and as Veterans.

Two local Native American students contributed to this exhibit. Mary Jo May, member of the Oglala Sioux tribe, and secondary education major at Black Hills State University provided research assistance for the Native American women's section. Artwork by Anthony Belgarde, member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and a design technology major at Bemidji State University is featured in the exhibit.

"Our mission at the Department of Veterans Affairs is to fulfill President Lincoln's promise – 'To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan' – by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's Veterans. We are very honored to be able to display *Native American Heritage* for our Veterans, employees, school children and community," said Steve DiStasio, Acting Director.

Native American Heritage will be on display for public viewing at the Hot Springs VA Medical Center, in Hot Springs, South Dakota, November 11th (Dom Auditorium before 11 am and after 1 pm) and 14th (Dining Room); and at the Fort Meade VA Medical Center in Fort Meade, South Dakota, November 16th and 17th, in the Credit Union corridor. Contact Connie Moffitt at 605-745-2000 x2164 or Rosie Elmore at x2313 for further information.

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