

Veterans' Day - Remember those who serve - Honor our Veterans!

Tribute to U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Christopher Phoenix-Jacobs Levy – Who gave the ultimate Sacrifice for his country

On December 10, 2011, U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Christopher Phoenix-Jacob Levy, 21, of the Lumbee Tribe died in an attack during his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. Levy was a machine gunner and infantry rifleman who had previously helped train Kenyan soldiers. In high school, Levy was an active member of the Junior ROTC program and the wrestling and cross-country teams. Levy was greatly involved in his culture; dancing at powwows and with the One Spirit Dance Group were among his many hobbies. He stood proudly in uniform, holding an eagle feather in his hand, when he was sworn into the Marine Corp!

We salute him this Veterans Day for his bravery and heroism!

More to consider!

In many American Indian traditions, the role of warrior is a sacred trust. Though a degree of glory might be won, that was not the primary goal. Protecting family and community, personal responsibility and respect for traditions played much bigger roles.

Crazy Horse, one of the warriors best known to a wide audience, was a quiet and humble man, rarely speaking of his experiences in battle. Yet his community was well aware of his courage and sacrifices and what they meant to their survival. Today, Tribes and American Indian communities across the country continue this tradition of respect for warriors and their sacrifices.

Despite a sometimes contentious relationship with the U.S. Government, American Indians remain resolutely patriotic.

Native young men and women are among the first to answer the nations call when soldiers are needed, serving with distinction in every branch of the service. When they return from service, soldiers are remembered and thanked not just for a day, but for a lifetime. Veterans are accorded a place of honor at the front of every parade and procession at every pow-wow and gathering.

The American Indian Code Talkers are among the most well know American Indian Warriors. See this webpage for additional information:

<http://nmai.si.edu/education/codetalkers/>

November 11th, American Indians, will be honored! We encourage each tribe to pause for a moment and to recognize all veterans but especially our American Indian Veterans.