

HONORING OUR ELDERS AND VETERANS



The California Department of Veterans Affairs honors generations of Native American veterans who have served with courage, sacrifice, and distinction. The CalVet Native American Day Commemorative Pin recognizes their military service while honoring the cultural traditions, strength, and resilience of Native American veterans and communities.

With this pin, CalVet expresses our gratitude and respect for Native American veterans and their families. It honors their service and sacrifice, the cultures and traditions they carry, and a legacy of service that reaches across generations – from those who came before to those who will follow.

The artwork featured on the commemorative pin was commissioned from Yurok artist, Carl Avery.

ABOUT THE DESIGN: Carl Avery, Yurok Artist

“The new CalVet logo is represented by a dancer in his headdress saluting. This is to honor those who have served and also acknowledge the Native American involvement in such services. The silhouette of California is just the region the logo was meant to represent, and the small design represents the capitol. I chose the 4-way color scheme of the Medicine Wheel to represent the sacred symbols of life, balance, and harmony across four directions. These colors also represent the spiritual healing and connection between physical, emotional, mental and spiritual aspects of life. Lastly, the design bordering the logo was specifically chosen because of its sharp points and continuous curve. The border is a reminder of the protection and being protected in which the logo represents.”

On behalf of the California Department of Veterans Affairs, I am honored to join communities across our state in recognizing the 59th Annual California Native American Day.

This year’s theme, “Inherent Sovereignty: Tribal Nations Fighting to Protect Our Land and Defend Our People,” speaks to the strength, resilience, and determination of Tribal Nations and Native peoples to protect their lands, cultures, communities, and future generations.

At CalVet, we are especially honored to recognize Native American veterans and their families. Generations of Native people have served with courage and distinction, carrying with them their cultures, traditions, communities, and a legacy of service that continues today.

We are grateful for their sacrifice and remain committed to ensuring Native American veterans are recognized, respected, and connected to the benefits and services they have earned.

California Native American Day is an opportunity to honor the histories, sovereignty, and living cultures of California’s Tribal Nations and Native peoples, cultures that have endured, evolved, and continue to shape California today. To our Native American veterans, past and present, thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and all that you continue to bring to your communities and to California.

With gratitude and respect,

Lindsey Sin
Secretary | California Department of Veterans Affairs

