



01 November 2016

National American Indian Heritage Month

Each November we celebrate National American Indian Heritage Month in honor of America's original people. We pay special tribute to generations of American Indians and Alaskan Natives for their wide-ranging contributions to the American story.

American Indians and Alaskan Natives have an unparalleled history of incredible service to our Nation. From the American Revolution, to the Korean War, to the most recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, they have always answered the call.

One such Native American who served with Eighth Army was Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud Jr. During the Korean War, he was part of the American advance into North Korea. On the night of 5 November 1950, Red Cloud was manning a forward observation post when he spotted an imminent surprise attack by Chinese forces. Corporal Red Cloud singlehandedly held off Chinese forces despite being shot eight times. At one point during the fight, he ordered his men to tie him to a tree because he was too weak to stand by himself. His company found him the next morning, surrounded by dead Chinese troops. He was credited with alerting his company to the ambush and saving them from being overrun. For these actions, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Today, more than 50 Native Americans and Alaskan Natives continue that outstanding legacy of service in Eighth Army and live the Army values 24/7. We commemorate their achievements and applaud the extraordinary role they play in shaping our Army and Nation.

Throughout Eighth Army, we encourage each of you to take part in National American Indian Heritage activities within your communities and units.

Eighth Army is Strong and Getting Stronger!

Pacific Victors!

RICHARD E. MERRITT
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major

THOMAS S. VANDAL
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding