



Profiles in History

Mr. Halsey's 2024 Modern Problems class created a research project to present to their class and the Winnebago Community some Native American heroes both alive and dead. The students also created some posters, which can be seen in the upper atrium of Winnebago Public School. Some of the individuals are from Winnebago, and some students found some familial ties while doing research. They hope you enjoy this newsletter and that some of these individuals inspire you as they were inspired.

-Mr. Halsey

SHARICE DAVIDS

Feb 6 2024

Shyleigh Horn



IMPACT

Davids is on the House Committee. She impacts agriculture, small businesses, transportation, and infrastructure.

EVENTS

She introduced legislation recognizing the importance of Tribal Colleges and Universities.



BIOGRAPHY

Sharice Davids, born May 22nd, 1980, in Frankfurt, Germany, assumed office on January 3, 2019. She is known as one of the first openly LGBT native women elected to congress.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Recently, Davids joined Honeywell in an investment to expand its Olathe manufacturing facility, which allows jobs in the area.



KANSAS

ADMIRATION

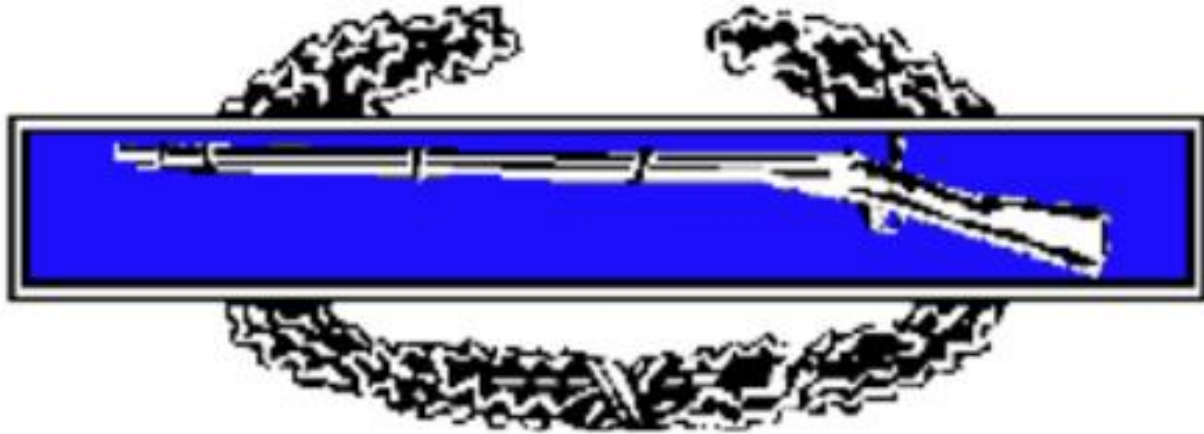
Davids is such a character. It shocked me to learn these little things about her and what she stands for.

FUN FACTS

- Former Mixed Martial Artist
- An enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin

John Raymond Rice

April 25th, 1914 - September 6th 1950



About

John Rice was a courageous man who fought for the lands we walk on today. His full name was John Raymond Rice. His Indian name was “KaylaCheManika” which meant “Walking in the blue sky.” He was born on April 25th, 1914. He already knew what he wanted to do as a teenager finishing high school. He enlisted into the army as soon as possible and was assigned to the 32nd division, known as the Red Arrow division. Which was where he performed his duties as a veteran soldier during World War II. As for the Korean War, he was a squad leader in Company A. Throughout this period, he fell in love with a young lady with just a glimpse of seeing her dance. They were married on Valentine’s Day and had three children together: Pamela, Jean Marie, and Timothy II. Later, he died in action during action in Korea while leading Company A on September 6th, 1950. His impact

was great for our country. He helped us win World War II and fought in the Korean War so we all could live freely in this country—a proud Native American born and raised in Winnebago, Nebraska. However, when they brought his corpse back to be buried in Sioux City, Iowa, the offer was declined due to their “Caucasians Only” policy. This put the family in severe pain and hurt. Once President Harry Truman found out about this chaos, he assigned Sergeant John Raymond Rice to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, provided with the right burial and send-off. This only leads us all to wonder, someone who fought for our country for more than several years and died doing so, why was his burial declined if being in the army was what John Rice lived for? Years later, his wife, Evelyn Rice, was buried next to her husband in 2006, and now they are both happily and freely together.

Achievements

- Awarded the “Purple Heart” for being wounded.
- Received the Bronze Star
- The Republic of Korea War Service Medal.
- The National Defense Service medal.
- The Pacific Theater Medal and WWII Victory Medal.



Facts on Sergeant John Rice

- A victim of Malaria
- He was 3/8th Native American and 5/8 White
- He had scars on his back from shrapnel wounds.

Reflection

I admire John Rice because he was very brave for the duties he performed while being in the army. He was a very great example of what a true man is. When he would get injured, he continued to fight, hence the reason why he died in action on the battle field. He’s someone anyone can look up to even if you hear a little bit of his story. I also found out that he was my great-great-grandfather which I think is pretty cool because a majority of my life I would see his picture on one of the billboards in Winnebago for almost all my childhood. What stood out to me the most about him was his last name, Rice. My dad’s last name was also Rice, mine was supposed to be Rice as well, but I took the last name Redhorn instead. I would have been fine with either. Overall, John Rice seems like someone who cared about his family a lot and would do anything to keep them safe, not only did he keep his family safe but he kept everyone in the U.S. safe and that is something I will always admire about him.

ANTHONY LAMERE



Anthony Lamere was a part of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. He was born on June 12, 1951, and died on July 1, 1971



This picture is also hanging up in the Veteran's building

Anthony Lamere served in the Military, to be more specific, the Army. He fought in the Vietnam War with his rank being Specialist 4, which is also a common ranking in the military. He died from an explosive device.

His name is on the Vietnam Wall.

He specialized in light weapons infantry

He was stationed in South Vietnam, Quang Tri province which was also where he passed away

I admire Anthony Lamere because he fought for the U.S. even though the Vietnam War was pretty useless. I admire really any Native who fought for their country especially if they are from where I live.





Ann Bledsoe Downes

ABOUT HER

Ann Bledsoe Downes is an enrolled member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, where she would grow up to attend and graduate from Wayne State College.

OTHER INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES

2021 - Working for the Biden- Administration

IMPACT

- A native American working for the Biden Administration
- Principal Deputy Solicitor in the US Department of Interior.

CURRENT GOALS

She plans on making the Department consult and incorporate Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge in its decision-making so the US society and the Globe can benefit from the first lessons of the first people of our land and water

ACHIEVEMENTS

Was an HCI Executive Vice President of community impact and engagement

Was a professor of practice and director of Indian gaming and tribal self-governance programs at Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University

She was previously the Deputy Assistant secretary for policy and economic development for Indian affairs in the US. Department of Interior

She also served as the President of LPTC

MY ADMIRATION

I admire her because she was a regular kid on a reservation like us. She has seen much worse than what we see today. She saw this and realized she did not want this, and she became the person she is today. Striving to help reservations across the country.



FUN-FACTS

- She was the Executive Director of the Legal Indian Program
- She is a member of the State Bar of California
- She also served as the Interim director of the Bureau of Indian Education

DEB HAALAND

U.S. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR



By: Haini-Wiragusge Morgan

FACTS

- Deb is the first Native person to be U.S Secretary of the Interior.
- She loves to cook
- She can trace her native ancestry back to the 1200's
- She likes to run
- Deb gave birth to her daughter 4 days after her graduation from the University of New Mexico

CONTROVERSY

Although Deb Haaland has made the massive accomplishment of becoming the first native person to be the interior secretary, she has also been involved in a serious controversy. Deb was put at the forefront of the controversial decision of the willow project, which would drill petroleum from Alaska wetlands and significantly increase carbon emissions. Though Deb opposed this project in Congress, she later said it was a complicated decision. Many are upset at Haaland because she was previously opposed to this decision. However, Deb was not involved with the announcement, and some think she is being put at the front of this so Biden can avoid backlash for his reelection. Others speculate that Deb is being placed at the forefront because she is a person of color.

MY ADMIRATION

I admire Deb Haaland because she shows how Native women can do anything. As someone who has an interest in government myself I see her as a huge inspiration for me. I have never really seen much representation for native women much less in government positions. I think she is an amazing role model for not only me but also other young native women. She is basically living proof that I can do anything I put my mind to.

ABOUT

Debra Anne Haaland was born in Winslow, AZ on December 2, 1960. She is a part of the Laguna of Pueblo and grew up moving from place to place because her parents were in the military. However, by the time Deb was in high school, she and her family were settled in Albuquerque, NM. After she graduated from Albuquerque Highland High School in 1978 Deb went to the University of New Mexico where in 1994 she would go on to get her bachelor's degree in English. In 2004 Deb volunteered for John Kerry's presidential campaign and 4 years later in 2008, she volunteered for Obama's presidential campaign as well as his reelection campaign in 2012. After that, she would serve as tribal administrator for the San Felipe Pueblo for 2 years from 2013-2015. Then after an unsuccessful bid to become lieutenant governor of New Mexico in 2014, she was selected as the chair of the New Mexico Democratic Party which she chaired for one term from 2015 to 2017. On November 6th, 2018 Deb was elected to represent New Mexico's first congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives. In November 2020, she was reelected to her house seat, and one year later on March 15th, 2021 senate confirmed her appointment as secretary of the interior where she was sworn in the next day.

IRA HAYES

Born January 12th, 1923

Died January 24th, 1955



Corporal Ira Hayes was a Native Pima Indian born on January 12th, 1923. Hayes was born in Sacaton, AZ but later moved to Bapchule (Marine Corps University).

Ira's parents were Nancy Hamilton and WWI Veteran Joseph Hayes. Hayes's Parents weren't classified as U.S. citizens until the Indian Citizenship Act was passed by Congress in 1914 (Dimuro).

When the attack on Pearl Harbor happened, Ira worked as a Carpenter. He decided to go to boot camp in San Diego and enlisted in the Marines in 1942. Hayes volunteered to join the paratrooper division (Military Medals).



Ira Hayes famously participated in the raising of the U.S. flag over Iwo Jima, an island in the western Pacific Ocean. The image was taken by photographer Joe Rosenthal. Hayes's story was heroic and led him to have a movie, *The Outsider*, made about him in 1961



Gertrude Simmons Bonnin

Alen Whitewing

Zitkála-Šá ("Red Bird") was part of the Yankton Dakota Sioux tribe, Born February 22nd, 1876 and Died January 26th, 1928



About

Gertrude Simmons Bonnin was raised by her mother, Ellen Simmons, as her father abandoned the family. At age 8, Quaker missionaries went to recruit indigenous children for a residential school in Wabash, Indiana, she was one of many who was recruited. She had a traumatic time there but she did graduate from the school and attended a teacher training program in Earlham College. She later transferred to the New England Conservatory of Music to study Violin. She then got a job as a music teacher at a residential school in Pennsylvania for a year, until she left her position, not able to work at another residential school that belittled Indigenous students for their limited speaking. When she got back, she witnessed the deep poverty her people were in, this caused her to move back to the residential school in Pennsylvania. She began writing about the Indigenous life and the schools, rewriting the racial stereotypes of Indians labeled as "savages". She then returned to her reservation and worked in the BIA on the Standing Rock reservation. In 1902 she met and married Captain Raymond Talefase Bonnin who was also Yankton Sioux. They moved to Utah as they both took the position to work at the Uintah and Ouray reservations. The couple lived there for 14 years and had a son named after the father but had "ohiya" as the middle name. During Gertrude's time living there, she collaborated with William F Hanson and created "Sun Dance" in 1913. She joined the Society of American Indians (SIA) when it just started, and also advocated for Women's suffrage in 1916.

They later moved to Washington DC as Her husband was fired from the agency in Utah. However, Gertrude continued her work in the SIA while working with Marie Louise Bottineau Baldwin, editing her journal called the American Indian Magazine where she lectured about preserving Native American Culture, and criticizing the issues with assimilation. In 1921, she worked with white suffrage groups and was active in the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). In 1924, she created the Indian Welfare Committee of GFWC where she also ran a voter registration drive for Native Americans to encourage them to vote for the democrats who want to further support them. In 1926, she and her husband founded the National Council of American Indians to advocate for Native all around. From then on, until her death, she continued working and advocating for education, health care, and recognizing Native Americans. She passed away in Washington DC with her husband and was buried in Arlington National cemetery together.

My admiration

She is not well talked about, so I wanted to learn more about her and share it with those who want to know more about Indigenous advocates. She still came back after being forced into the colonized ways, getting more education to further help her interests preserve Native American culture across the United States.

Fun facts

- Her father is french.
- She wrote a book of stories called Old Indian Legends.

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