



Welcome Home Ceremony & Blessing — The Gift —

Monday, May 27, 2019 at *2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

* Following the noon Memorial Day event at the Amphitheater.

Riverside National Cemetery

At a location near the RNC's Amphitheater

★ **22495 Van Buren Blvd., Riverside, CA** ★

For the first time, this fourth Monday in May – Memorial Day -- Riverside's community of Veterans can view the centerpiece statue of the proposed American Indian Veterans Memorial. Although the Memorial site is not yet ready to begin construction, the bronze twice life-sized rendition of the statue has been completed.

THE GIFT is meant to represent the Nation's gratitude to the American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and U.S. Islanders for their over 200 years of military service. Rincon's Tribal Chairman Bo Mazzetti, himself a U.S. Navy Vietnam Veteran, explains it this way: "For Indian people, whatever the differences in geography, languages, spiritual or cultural practices, there is one common value and that is to protect one's home and people. ... Warriors are highly honored and respected. That's why we feel strongly that our veterans deserve recognition, a memorial, to stand with the other sacred monuments dedicated to the many heroes who have served our country. ..."

It's been over ten years since the vision of a national memorial, on sacred ground, would be erected to honor our country's indigenous veterans. The American Indian Alaska Native Veterans Memorial Committee, working with The Riverside National Cemetery Support Committee, continues to accept donations for the walkways, central plaza, and two bronze eagle sculptures – these additions will join the centerpiece memorial, THE GIFT.

Please plan to attend the short ceremony to welcome THE GIFT. Standing together, with Special Guest Saginaw Grant, a Native American character actor, dancer, motivational speaker and the Hereditary Chief of the Sac and Fox Nation, we will welcome the statue with a blessing and short ceremony.

THE GIFT has been sculpted by A. Thomas Schomberg. To see his other works, please visit schombergstudios.com. For additional information, please contact RNCSC Chairman Paul Adkins, 82ndmedic@earthlink.net or AIANVMC Chairwoman Sharron Savage, ac.sl.savage@gmail.com.

Donations may be made via AIANveteransMemorial.com or RNCSC.org or by mail to P.O.Box 202, Banning, CA 92223. Please make checks to "RNCSC for the AIV Memorial"

