November: A time to celebrate, commemorate first Americans

CFAY to observe National Native American Heritage Month during cermony at Officer's Club Nov. 24

By Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

November has been proclaimed National Native American Heritage Month by President Barack Obama. In his proclamation, Obama calls upon all Americans to "commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities, and to celebrate Nov. 27, 2009, as Native American Heritage Day."

"Native American voices have echoed through the mountains, valleys, and plains of our country for thousands of years, and it is now our time to listen," said Obama in his proclamation.

On board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY), a National Native American Heritage Month ceremony will be observed Nov. 24 at 2 p.m. in the Officer's Club Sakura Room. The ceremony will feature opening remarks by CFAY commanding officer Capt. Daniel Weed and presentations by CFAY Sailors of Native American ancestry.

Gas Turbine Systems Technician – Mechanical 2nd Class Mark Bruley, who is of Iroquois descent on his father's side, will speak at the event and is happy to have the chance to remind the community of the impact Native American values and culture have had on modern-day Americans.

"To have Native American blood in me is something that I can take pride in and talk about to people," said Bruley. "I just want people to remember that there are still many Native Americans in the U.S. today and many of them are serving in the armed forces."

According to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, what started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

(Left) The Sullivans Elementary School Principal Walter Wilhoit listens as World War II Marine Corps veteran and Navajo code talker Samuel Smith Sr. talks with students during his visit to CFAY last November to celebrate National Native American Heritage Month. Smith, who is a member of the Navajo tribe, joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943 and became a member of the legendary code talkers.
Photo by Yuji Kawabe

One of the first proponents of an American Indian Day was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y., Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian. He worked with the Boy Scouts of America to observe a day dedicated to the "First Americans," which continued for three years.

In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kan., formally approved a plan in regards to American Indian Day. Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe and congressional president, called upon the country to observe the day. Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month." Proclamations declaring November as a time to celebrate the first Americans have been issued each year since 1994.

USFJ announces logo contest

By Mark Elrod, CFAY Public Affairs

On Jan. 16, 1960, representatives of the United States and Japan joined together and signed the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the two countries.

U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) is holding a logo and motto contest in preparation for the observance of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the treaty.

"To assist U.S. Forces Japan [in commemorating] this occasion, we would like to solicit from members of U.S. Forces in Japan their creative and innovative ideas for a historical logo and an anniversary motto," stated Commander U.S. Forces Japan U.S. Air Force (USAF) Lt. Gen Edward A. Rice Jr., in a memorandum for U.S. Forces Japan component commanders. "This contest, and its resultant logo and motto, is the USFJ kick-off for what will be a year-long commemoration of this important anniversary."

As the title of the treaty implicates, the agreement is meant to ensure that both parties cooperate and settle disputes by peaceful means with each together as well as with "other peace-loving countries."

Though the treaty was signed Jan. 16, it was actually implemented June 23, 1960.

"This is a tremendous milestone, demonstrating the treaty's lasting impact in the Asia-Pacific Theater," stated Rice. "This treaty is indicative of our strong partnership with the Japan Self Defense Forces and Japan officials we share every day."

Specifications for logo and motto submissions state that "all logos and mottos must positively focus on the 50th Anniversary of the US-Japan Mutual Alliance Treaty and its significance to the US-Japan Alliance."

Participants may submit one logo or motto, or both, for consideration. However, logo submissions must be a high resolution, CYMK color-format JPG image, at a minimum 300 dpi, 1,000 x 1,000 pixels and not exceed 5MB in size; be submitted as the only file on a CDROM; provide an English translation for any Japanese language in the design or motto wording, if applicable and not contain any copyrighted material.

Motto submissions must be no longer than 10 words and contain no acronyms.

Eligible participants include all active duty, guard, and reserve members assigned to USFJ and its component commands and their family members.

Additionally, Department of Defense civilians and local national master labor contract employees assigned to USFJ and its component commands are eligible.

Entries must be submitted by mail to:

HQ US Forces Japan (J021)
Unit 5068
Building 714 Rm 127
Yokota Air Base Japan
APO AP 96326-5058

All entries must be postmarked no later than Dec. 1. Contact USAF Maj. Neal Fisher at 225-4148 for more information.

Hard at work

CE2 Claudia Mendez, of West Palm Beach, Fla., assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion One, homeported in Gulfport, Miss., connects a single pole switch to its faceplate during a construction renovation at CFAY.
U.S. Navy Photo by MC2 N. Gervacio

Yokosuka Commissary 2009 Holiday Schedule

- Closed Thanksgiving Day
- Reopen Nov. 27 at normal hours
- Early closure Dec. 19 at 5 p.m.
- Early closure Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.
- Closed Christmas Day
- Reopen Dec. 26 at normal hours
- Closed New Year's Day
- Reopen Jan. 2 at normal hours
- Early opening Dec. 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27 at 8 a.m.

Need party trays? Please see us and submit your orders early!

Conservation Tip of the Week

NAVY / MARINE CORPS ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Fill a basin when you wash dishes by hand instead of letting the water run. You could save up to 25 gallons of water each time.