

Remembering Indigenous Veterans

What makes you, you? Is it your beliefs, family, or how you style your hair? Many factors contribute to our uniqueness. But imagine having to change who you are just to fit in, or being left out because of who you are. Many Indigenous Veterans in Canada faced this challenge while serving in the military. They had to hide and give up parts of their identity, including their status as Indigenous people, to be accepted as soldiers and faced similar obstacles when they returned home.

Changing who you are can have big consequences. While some Indigenous Veterans were honored around the world and felt proud, many did not receive the same respect as other Canadian Veterans. They faced racism before and after their service.

Indigenous Veterans helped other countries fight for freedom and equality while their own country was trying to erase their culture. It was not right or fair, but they didn't give up. When Indigenous Veterans came home, they worked hard to stand up for justice and made sure that all Veterans had the same rights and freedoms.

On November 8th, we honor and remember Indigenous Veterans for their service, their sacrifice, and their dedication to truth and justice.





Captain Kenneth Ned

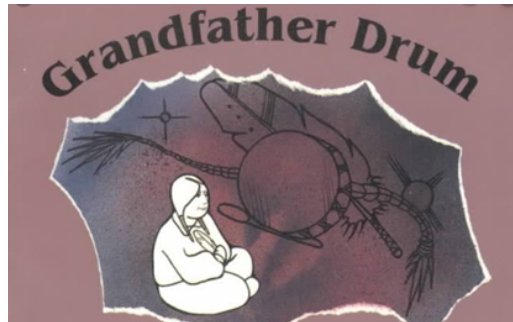
Captain Kenneth Ned from Semá:th First Nation served in the Armed Forces from 1957-1992. Drumming was part of who he was. He loved the strong, powerful sound of the drum. To Mr. Ned, the drum felt alive, almost as if the animal that had helped make it was still there with him. Mr. Ned believed the sound of the drum could even be powerful enough to keep enemies away! No guns required! As a pilot and a veteran, the sound of the drum meant a lot to him; it represented strength and bravery against his enemies, while also giving him feelings of healing, protection, warmth, and love.

TRY THIS



Get a bowl from the kitchen and stretch a piece of saran wrap over the bowl as tightly as possible. Make sure it's tight. Now take some grains of sand or pine needles and put a few on top of the Saran Wrap. Next, get a partner to hold a drum as close as possible to the bowl without touching the bowl. Now beat the drum a few times and watch what happens to the sand. What's happening here?

A DIFFERENT SOUND STORY



This Ojibwe story, shared by Ferguson Plain, explains how Owl got the ability to turn his head all the way around, and how Nanaboozhoo the trickster used the power of sound to make this happen!

SHAPING OUR IDENTITY



What shapes your identity? Our Elders and Veterans teach us that many things contribute to making us who we are. Sound is one of those things. The sounds we love help shape who we are and help us tell our unique stories.



Resources:

Story of Captain Kenneth Ned, shared with permission.

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Plain, Ferguson. Grandfather Drum. 1994.

The Eagle Staff. www.facebook.com/RCAF.ARC/videos/eagle-staff/10154654712026237