

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service



July 3, 2018

Mr. Earl A. Powell III
Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts
401 F Street, NW, Suite 312
Washington, DC 20001-2728

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you as Executive Director of a non-profit organization that represents the Commissioned (uniformed) Corps officers in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). Officers who serve in the USPHS and in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are veterans under federal law, but in a recent interview, Harvey Pratt, designer of the National Native American Veterans Memorial, said that his design only includes the logos of the five military services. This means that Native Americans who are veterans of the USPHS and NOAA would not be recognized by this official memorial. There are thousands of such officers who served their country honorably and well and who are now entitled to all veteran benefits. We believe very strongly that any federal memorial to Native American veterans should be inclusive of all Native American veterans.

The logos of these two organizations—USPHS and NOAA--need to be incorporated into the design of the memorial. We have written to Kevin Gover, Director of the National Museum of the American Indian, expressing our concerns and our request. Likewise, we are writing to you to ask that the Commission of Fine Arts withhold its approval of the memorial design until it is modified to include the logos of both the U.S. Public Health Service and NOAA.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below if you have any questions about our request.

Sincerely,

Col. James T. Currie, USA (ret.)
Executive Director