



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

August 7, 2018

Kevin Gover, Director
Museum of the American Indian
4th Street SW and Constitution Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20560

Dear Director Gover:

Enclosed is a copy of the letter we sent you on June 27 asking that the design for the National Native American Veterans Memorial be modified to include the logos of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), two federal uniformed services whose officers are U.S. veterans.

We have been in touch with Mr. Harvey Pratt, designer of the memorial, and he indicated to us that there would be a design meeting at the end of July and that he would bring up our request. We don't know whether he did so.

We believe our request is both appropriate and reasonable, and we trust that the design can be modified as we ask. We look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Please feel free to contact me at jcurrie@coausphs.org or 301 731-9080 if you want to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

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



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

June 27, 2018

Kevin Gover, Director
Museum of the American Indian
4th Street SW and Constitution Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20560

Dear Director Gover:

I was listening to National Public Radio yesterday afternoon and heard a terrific interview with Harvey Pratt, whose design has been chosen for the new National Native American Veterans Memorial. During the interview, Mr. Pratt said that his design includes the logos of the five armed services. This means that the logo of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS), one of the seven federal uniformed services, is left off the memorial.

I am writing this letter to request that the design for the new memorial be modified by adding the logo of the USPHS. USPHS officers are veterans under federal law, and Native Americans have served in the Public Health Service for many years. I am sure you are personally acquainted with some of these fine individuals, including many Native Americans who have risen to the rank of Admiral. Perhaps you know RADM Michael Weakhee, currently Acting Director of the Indian Health Service and RADM Kevin Meeks, who is Deputy Director for Field Operations for the Indian Health Service. You may also know RADM George Blue Spruce, the first Native American to go through dental school and a now-retired Corps officer. There are currently almost 800 Native American officers serving in the Commissioned Corps of the USPHS, forming over twelve percent of the active duty Corps. This is, I am certain, the largest percentage of Native Americans in any of the seven uniformed federal services.

You and I have not met, but I know Rick West and will be contacting him about this request.

Please feel free to contact me at jcurrie@coausphs.org or 301 731-9080 if you want to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

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