

From: Gordon, Elizabeth <GordonE@si.edu>

Date: Aug 15, 2018, 6:46 AM -0700

To: (name deleted)

Subject: The National Native American Veterans Memorial

Dear Captain (name deleted),

Thank you very much for your June 28th letter to Kevin Gover regarding the National Native American Veterans Memorial. While truly empathetic to your concerns about representation within the memorial's design, we are restricted by the legislation we received from Congress in 1994. Specifically, Congress authorized NMAI to create a National Native American Veterans Memorial to give "all Americans the opportunity to learn of the proud and courageous tradition of service of Native Americans in the Armed Forces of the United States."

As the Commissioned Corps is a non-military uniformed service and Corps officers are not trained in arms, we interpreted our Congressional mandate to include the five armed service branches of the U.S. military. Our intention is not to exclude anyone-- Native and non-Native, veteran and civilian—are to be welcomed at this memorial.

Thank you again for your interest in the National Native American Veterans Memorial. We look forward to welcoming you at our dedication in the fall of 2020.

Very truly yours,

Betsy Gordon

Project Manager

Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian