



# Smithsonian Institution

David J. Skorton  
Secretary

February 6, 2019

Dr. George Blue Spruce  
ADM (Ret.), U.S. Public Health Service  
18190 N. Timber Ridge Drive  
Surprise, AZ 85374

Dear Dr. Blue Spruce,

Thank you for your letter regarding your efforts to have U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Native American officers included in the Smithsonian's National Native American Veterans Memorial. The enabling legislation, "Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act of 1994," only references the Armed Forces of the United States.

The plan and design of the National Native American Veterans Memorial is very important to the Smithsonian, and our Office of Government Relations plans to meet with the appropriate staff of the House Committee on Natural Resources to receive clarification on this matter. As you are aware, the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress recently convened and committees are still being organized. We hope to be able to update you on this matter by the end of March.

Thank you for taking time to share your concerns with me. I appreciate your support of the Smithsonian.

Sincerely,

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