



Comanche CODE TALKERS

On October 15, 2008 President George W. Bush signed Public Law 110-420, the Code Talker Recognition Act of 2008, awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the Comanche Code Talkers of World War I and World War II. It will be presented to the Comanche Nation (posthumously) on November 20, 2013 at the US Capitol, in Emancipation Hall at 11 a.m.



In 1940, 20 Comanches were identified for military service into the Army Signal Corps. While in training at Fort Gordon GA they developed 100 code words in the Comanche language to send, receive and translate sensitive military messages on the battlefield. That code was later used in 5 European campaigns starting with the landing on Utah Beach at Normandy, France on June 6, 1944 (D-Day) – the Germany Army never broke the code.



Elgin Red Elk

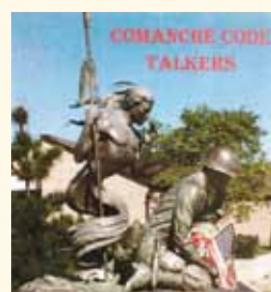
Recognition for their extraordinary military service, has taken almost 73 years. By using the Comanche language to send and receive sensitive military messages on the battlefield, which the Germans did not understand, thousands of American and Allied lives were spared.



Anthony Tabbytite

Reflection Questions:

1. How many words did they translate to be used as military codes? (100)
2. How many campaigns were the codes used? (5)
3. Which campaign was the codes first used? (Utah Beach at Normandy)
4. Which U.S. President signed the Code Talker Recognition Act of 2008? (George W. Bush)
5. What day will the Congressional Medal of Honor given to the Code Talkers posthumously? (Nov. 20, 2013)
6. In what ways do you think the U.S saved lives by using the Comanche language in codes? (using the Comanche language to send and receive sensitive military messages on the battlefield, which the Germans did not understand, thousands of American and Allied lives were spared.)



Comanche Code Talker "Spirit Talker" monument located in front of the Comanche Nation HQs building

Newspapers for this educational program provided by:



NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION
THE OKLAHOMAN