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## **New documentary honors the exemplary military service of Native Americans**

**Albuquerque, NM**—The New Mexico Film Office announced today the upcoming release of “Honor Song,” a powerful documentary highlighting the extraordinary contributions and sacrifices of Native American veterans throughout U.S. history. The film will premiere on **Nov. 2, 2024** at the **New Mexico Veterans Memorial**, coinciding with **Kirtland Air Force Base’s Native American Heritage Month Unity Day**.

“As we look forward to Native American Heritage Month in New Mexico, this film offers a salient picture of military service and commitment throughout our native communities,” said Economic Development Secretary-Designate **Rob Black**. “I thank Sen. Shendo for his vision and sponsorship of this film and am proud the State of New Mexico helped to bring it forward.”

“Honor Song” is brought to life through a partnership between **Sovereign Mind Productions LLC**, the **New Mexico Media Arts Collective**, and the **New Mexico Economic Development Department**. The film, commissioned by **State Sen. Benny Shendo**, highlights the dedication to honoring Native American veterans and preserving their stories.

“I am honored to have commissioned the creation of ‘Honor Song,’” **Sen. Shendo** said. “Every Native American veteran has a story to tell, a story of bravery and sacrifice. This documentary is our way of ensuring those stories are heard and cherished.”

“‘Honor Song’ shines a light on the often-overlooked contributions of Native American service members throughout history. It reveals their resilience, honor, and the complex interplay of culture and sacrifice,” **Ryan Begay**, the film’s producer and director, stated. “As a Diné veteran of the U.S. Air Force I take great pride in sharing this perspective for all to see. This film offers a reminder of their integral role in shaping our nation’s military legacy.”

“As we pay tribute to the profound contributions of Native American veterans, ‘Honor Song’ stands as a testament to their courage, resilience, and unwavering dedication to our country,” **Mateo Frazier**, Acting Executive Director of the New Mexico Media Arts Collective, said. “Ryan Begay’s remarkable work on this film ensures that these vital stories are not only honored but also preserved for future generations, allowing us all to learn from and reflect on their legacy.”

The **Unity Day** celebration will take place from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, with the **“Honor Song”** premiere events starting at **3:30 p.m.** This day promises to celebrate the rich legacy of Native American military service and their cultural contributions.

“The rich culture and history of our Native American community is something we celebrate every day in our city, but this occasion gives us a special opportunity to amplify that recognition, including our gratitude for the service of Native veterans,” **Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller** said. “Shining a light on their stories allows us all to learn from and reflect on their important contributions.”

### **Unity Day Event Details**

The **Unity Day** celebration will offer free admission and feature a vibrant array of vendors, food trucks, and performances by Native American dance groups. The event celebrates Native Americans’ rich history, diverse cultures, and remarkable contributions.

### **Honor Song Premiere Events**

Following the Unity Day festivities, guests are invited to attend the premiere of the documentary “Honor Song.” Below is the updated schedule for the premiere events:

- **3:30 p.m.** – Red Carpet Arrival  
Meet and greet special guests, dignitaries, and the film's creators during this red-carpet event.
- **4 p.m.** – Presentation of Colors, Prayer, and Guest Speakers  
A formal presentation of colors and a prayer ceremony will be followed by notable guest speakers discussing the significance of Native American military service and the “Honor Song” documentary.
- **5 p.m.** – Screening of “Honor Song”  
The highly anticipated premiere of the documentary honoring the service and sacrifices of Native American veterans.
- **5:30 p.m.** – Q&A Session  
After the screening, a Q&A session with **Ryan Begay**, the producer and director of “Honor Song,” will offer a unique opportunity to learn more about the film and its making.
- **6 p.m.** – Meet and Greet  
Conclude the evening with a meet-and-greet session, allowing attendees to interact with the filmmakers and other special guests.

A trailer and preview of “Honor Song” can be found [here](#).

For more information about the documentary, screening schedules, and how to get involved, please email [Sovereignmindprod@gmail.com](mailto:Sovereignmindprod@gmail.com).

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*The New Mexico Film Office (NMFO), a division of the Economic Development Department, works to ensure the longevity and progress of New Mexico’s film incentive, grow the film, television, and digital media industry, and expand entertainment economic opportunities for New Mexico businesses and residents.*

- Named one of [Deadline’s Hot Spots](#).
- Three New Mexico cities were selected as [“2024 Best Place to Live and Work as a Moviemaker”](#) by *MovieMaker Magazine* for the second consecutive year.

To learn more, visit [nmfilm.com](http://nmfilm.com).

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A division of the [New Mexico Economic Development Department](#)



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