

## The Warrior Tradition Premieres on PBS on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2019, during Native American Heritage Month

– One-Hour Documentary Tells the Astonishing, Heartbreaking, Inspiring, and Largely Untold Story of Native Americans in the United States Military.



*The Warrior Tradition premieres Nov. 11 at 9 pm on PBS*

BUFFALO, NY; SEPT. 12, 2019 – Explore the complicated ways the culture and traditions of Native Americans have affected their participation in the United States military when **The Warrior Tradition** airs Nov. 11 at 9 pm ET on PBS. The one-hour documentary, co-produced by WNED-TV Buffalo Toronto and Florentine Films/Hott Productions, Inc., tells the stories of Native American warriors from their own points of view – stories of service and pain, of courage and fear.

**The Warrior Tradition** dispels the old duality of the Noble Savage/helpless victim that has dominated our cultural portrait of Native Americans for more than a century. But it's a more complicated story. Indian warriors have a wide mix of emotions and motives – patriotism, pride, rage, courage, practicality, and spirituality, all mingling with an abiding respect for tribal, familial, and national traditions.

Even the numbers tell a story. During World War I, not all Native Americans were even citizens of the United States, and couldn't be drafted, yet more than 12,000 Indian men volunteered. Even in Vietnam, an unpopular war, 90 percent of the 42,000 Native people who served were volunteers.

"That's the irony," said Patty Loew, member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, a professor of Journalism at Northwestern University, and a consultant for **The Warrior Tradition**. "Here's a government that has, at various times, tried to exterminate or assimilate Native Americans, destroy their culture, take their land, and yet here are Native Americans serving in the highest percentages of any race or ethnicity relative to their numbers in the US military."

There's more to the story than heroism. And there's more than one way to be a warrior.

More than a dozen Native American veterans appear in the film, having served in Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Army National Guard. They each have their own reasons for having served and for how the warrior tradition played a role in their lives. Among those who share their stories are veterans of wars and conflicts ranging from World War II to ongoing deployments in the Middle East. They are members of tribes

from all over the United States, including the Comanche and Apache Tribes of Oklahoma, the Mississippi Choctaw, Navajo Nation, and the Menominee, among many others.

A trailer of the documentary is available [here](#).

A robust website will be created to accompany the documentary at [pbs.org/warriortradition](https://pbs.org/warriortradition). Included on the site are essays expanding on the themes in the documentary, bonus videos, and classroom resources including seven lesson plans for elementary and intermediate school students. Also on the website are four short, digital videos created by Native American filmmakers on the warrior tradition theme. The films are:

- “Disqualified Warriors” by Jeffrey Palmer, a Kiowa filmmaker
- “The Protector” by Ramona Emerson, a Diné filmmaker
- “Minnie’s Warbonnet” by Yvonne Russo, a Lakota filmmaker
- “Art, Honor & Service” by Caleb G. Abrams, a Seneca filmmaker

Viewers are encouraged to join the conversation about **The Warrior Tradition** on social media using the hashtag: #WarriorTraditionPBS.

**The Warrior Tradition** will stream for free and will be available on all PBS platforms, including PBS.org and the PBS Video App, available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Tizen, and Chromecast.

**The Warrior Tradition** will be available on DVD at [shop.pbs.org](https://shop.pbs.org).

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**The Warrior Tradition** is a co-production of WNED-TV and Florentine Films/Hott Productions, Inc. It was produced and directed by Lawrence Hott and written by Ken Chowder. John Grant is executive producer for WNED-TV.

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## About PBS

[PBS](https://pbs.org), with nearly 350 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 90 million people through television and 30 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS’ broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry’s most

coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. Decades of research confirms that PBS' premier children's media service, PBS KIDS, helps children build critical literacy, math and social-emotional skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality educational content on TV – including a 24/7 channel, online at [pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org), via an array of mobile apps and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, or by following [PBS on Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or through our [apps for mobile and connected devices](#). Specific program information and updates for press are available at [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pbs.org/pressroom) or by following [PBS Pressroom on Twitter](#).

### **About WNED | WBFO**

The WNED | WBFO family of stations broadcasts PBS, NPR, and Classical music programming throughout the Western New York and Southern Ontario regions. WNED-TV is a national producer of award-winning documentaries including Understanding the Opioid Epidemic, The War of 1812, Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing America, The Klondike Gold Rush, The Shaw Festival: Behind the Curtain, Underground Railroad: The William Still Story, Niagara Falls, Chautauqua: An American Narrative, Window to the Sea, The Adirondacks, Golf's Grand Design, The Marines, America's Houses of Worship, Frank Lloyd Wright's Buffalo, and Elbert Hubbard: An American Original. Additional information about WNED | WBFO can be found at [wned.org](http://wned.org).

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