

REFERENCE TITLE: honoring Hopi code talkers

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fiftieth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2011

## **SCR 1009**

Introduced by

Senators Jackson, Aboud, Allen, Driggs, Gallardo, Gray, Griffin, Pearce R,  
Schapira, Sinema; Representative Chabin: Senators Barto, Bundgaard, Cajero  
Bedford, Crandall, Gould, Klein, McComish, Melvin, Nelson, Yarbrough;  
Representatives Alston, Harper, Hobbs, McCune Davis

### **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

**HONORING THE HOPI CODE TALKERS FOR THEIR SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
AMERICAN HISTORY AND MILITARY SUCCESS.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1           Whereas, on December 7, 1941, the Japanese Empire attacked Pearl  
2 Harbor, and Congress declared war the following day; and

3           Whereas, the military code developed by the United States for  
4 transmitting messages had been deciphered by the Japanese, and United States  
5 intelligence made a search to develop new means to counter the enemy; and

6           Whereas, the United States government called on Native Americans,  
7 including members of the Hopi Tribe, to support the military effort by  
8 recruiting and enlisting Native American men to serve in the United States  
9 Army as radio telephone operators; and

10           Whereas, at the time, the Hopis were being discouraged from using their  
11 own language; and

12           Whereas, ten United States Army Hopi radio telephone operators, who  
13 became known as the Native American Code Talkers, used their Hopi language to  
14 develop and communicate military coded messages in the Pacific campaign; and

15           Whereas, to the enemy's frustration, the code developed by the Hopi  
16 Code Talkers proved to be unbreakable and was used extensively throughout the  
17 Pacific campaign; and

18           Whereas, Native American languages were instrumental in developing the  
19 most significant and successful military code of the time; and

20           Whereas, the Hopi and other Native American Code Talkers were so  
21 successful that military commanders credited their code with saving the lives  
22 of countless American soldiers and with the successful engagements of the  
23 American forces in the battles of Guadalcanal, Peleliu, Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo  
24 Jima and Okinawa; and

25           Whereas, following the conclusion of World War II, the United States  
26 Department of Defense maintained the secrecy of the Native American code  
27 until it was declassified in 1968. Only then did information about the  
28 sacrifice and valor of these brave Native Americans emerge from history; and

29           Whereas, the Hopi Code Talkers' remarkable contribution to this country  
30 went unrecognized until the United States Congress passed the Code Talkers  
31 Recognition Act of 2008 to require the issuance of medals to recognize the  
32 dedication and valor of Native American Code Talkers; and

33           Whereas, on November 11, 2009, the Hopi Tribe and Hopi veterans  
34 dedicated a bronze plaque for the eight Hopi Code Talkers who were members of  
35 the famed 323<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 81<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, known as the "Wild  
36 Cat Division"; and

37           Whereas, the remarkable achievements of the Hopi Code Talkers  
38 confounded the Japanese and contributed to the liberation of the South  
39 Pacific Islands and final victory against the military forces of the Empire  
40 of Japan in World War II. Their bold wartime actions exemplify the courage,  
41 bravery and spirit of America's patriot heroes.

1 Therefore

2 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of  
3 Representatives concurring:

4 1. That the Members of the Legislature recognize and honor the  
5 enormous contributions of the Hopi Code Talkers to American history and  
6 military success, and support the preservation of their remarkable legacy.

7 2. That the Members of the Legislature encourage schools and civic  
8 groups to teach and commemorate the important historical contributions of the  
9 Hopi and other Native American Code Talkers have made to the principles of  
10 freedom.

11 3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies  
12 of this Resolution to the Secretaries of the United States Department of  
13 Defense, the United States Department of Education, the United States  
14 Department of the Interior and the United States Department of Veterans  
15 Affairs, the Chairman of the Hopi Tribe, the Director of the Arizona  
16 Department of Veterans' Services, the National Congress of American Indians  
17 and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.