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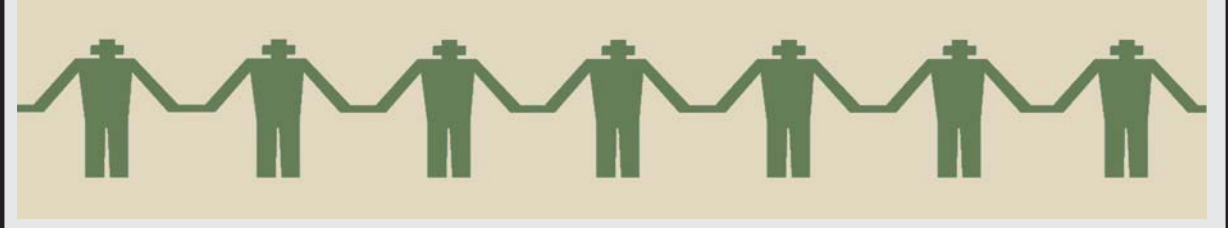
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NTHS is accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAHC)



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PrescottLandscape Architect's Design to Honor Navajo Code Talkers

Plan aims to create setting of remembrance and veneration for new state monument.

PRESCOTT, Ariz. (Feb. 22, 2008)-----What makes memorial art monumental isn't bronze, marble or eternal flames. It's the power it has to evoke fitting remembrance of those it venerates.

How to do this for Arizona Navajo Code Talkers whose unbreakable military code helped secure United States victory in some of World War II's most famous battles?

And how to do it with landscape?

These were the questions Landscape Architect Barnabas Kane pondered when he sat down to design the landscape portion of the Navajo Code Talkers Monument, a state memorial project scheduled to be erected in downtown Phoenix Feb. 28.

Kane's project aims to honor the Arizonans among more than 400

Navajo codetalkers who developed the code and used it to transmit orders, troop movements and military tactics in every US Marine Corps assault in the war's Pacific theater between 1942 and 1945, including Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima.

They based the code on the highly symbolic spoken Navajo language, to which they added encrypted vocabulary that made the code one of the only ones skilled Japanese code-breakers never demystified.

The Navajo Code Talkers Monument, a project approved by the state legislature in 2003, is to be placed in Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza, part of the State Capital complex that's home to similar memorials for state and national historic figures.

Kane, principal of Prescott-based landscape architecture firm T.

Barnabas Kane & Assoc., specializes in designs that are particularly sensitive to history, culture and environment.

When designing the monument's environment, he focused on creating an inviting micro-park within the plaza that would draw attention to the monument's message, remembering and honoring the Navajo code talkers.

This approach is one reason Kane was selected as the project's landscape designer, said former Arizona Rep. Sylvia Laughter, founder of the Navajo Code Talkers Memorial Foundation, the nonprofit organization funding the project.

"We are fortunate to have someone of Barnabas Kane's expertise designing the landscape," she said. "His design, coupled with the beautiful statue, is a wonderful way

to honor the Navajo Code Talkers."

While serving in the capacity of State Representative in 2003, Laughter sponsored the legislation that made way for the project.

The heart of the monument is a nine-foot bronze statue, depicting a Navajo code talker mid-transmission by renowned Ute-Navajo artist Oreland C. Joe, from Kirtland, New Mexico.

Kane's design, which he drafted over about three months, celebrates the sculpture's artistry while creating an inviting setting that encourages visitors to take pause and reflect on what the art represents.

The geometric iconography of Navajo art, as well as existing park features, other memorials and the overall aesthetics of the capital complex, influenced the layout.

Kane wanted the space to embrace both art and visitor. A gently curving low wall will cup the statue and create a welcoming, eye-catching central space. Colorful flowering and Arizona native plants will create a soft, alluring backdrop.

The wall was designed low to serve as seating and additional benches were placed along angled planters across from the statue.

To determine final layout, paving and plant selections, Kane worked with the state's Historical Advisory Commission, Governmental Mall Commission and administration department, plus representatives from the Navajo Code Talkers Monument Foundation.

Like many of the project's other contributors, Kane is donating his work and time at no charge.

"This is a great chance to offer my services for something meaningful," he said. "The Navajo code talkers' contribution to the war effort saved thousands of lives.

I'm pleased to be part of a project that honors their courage and sacrifice, as well as the Navajo Nation as a whole."

A dedication ceremony is scheduled for February 28, 2007, at the monument site the Arizona State Capital's Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza, 1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix.

About T. Barnabas Kane & Associates

T. Barnabas Kane & Assoc., P.C., is a Prescott-based landscape architecture firm with more than 20 years of experience creating habitat through landscaping. Specializing in ecological site planning and landscape design for the Southwest, the firm's designers integrate architectural principles and environmental sensitivity to create habitat that unifies structures, people and the natural world. For more about the firm and its design philosophy, visit www.tbkadesign.com.

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