

## Program Events

10:00 a.m. – Mr. Jack Harding — Master of Ceremonies

- Posting of Colors – Hualapai Veterans Group
- National Anthem
- Opening Prayer – Gene Pooyouma, son of Rex Pooyouma
- Special Wreath Ceremony
  - \* Clark Tenakhongva, Vice Chairman, The Hopi Tribe
  - \* Cory Secakuyva, Commander, American Legion “Lori Piestewa” Post #80
- Playing of TAPS
- Honor Song — Ms. Ila Lou Lomawaima
- Recognition of Distinguished Visitors and Hopi Code Talkers Families.
- Tribute to Native American Code Talkers

10:30 a.m. – Special Letter, Choir and Presentation

- Lieutenant General Kevin B. Schneider, Commander, U.S. Forces Japan, and Commander, 5th Air Force, Pacific Air Forces, Yokota Air Base, Japan
- Sunlight Mission Choir—song
- Presentation to Rex Pooyouma Family—Vice Chairman Tenakhongva
- Recognition of Sponsors—Eugene “Geno” Talas, Manager, Hopi Veterans Services

10:45 a.m. – Keynote Speakers

- Barbara Gotham, 380th Bomb Group Association
- Remembering Rex Pooyouma
  - ◇ Melvin Pooyouma, son of Rex Pooyouma
- Entertainment
  - ◇ Youth Group—Hopi Warrior Dance

12:30 p.m. – Lunch meal is served.

1:30 p.m. – Closing Comments.

2:00 p.m. – Retire National Colors

## Special Thanks

**A huge thank you to Second Mesa Day School, staff and students for hosting the event in your beautiful school. With special recognition and sincere appreciation to Ms. Dianne Lomahaftewa Albert, Chief School Administrator, and Melvin Pooyouma, Jr., Facility Manager, for their outstanding support and guidance to hold this annual event in a school setting. Kwa kway!**



**Barbara J Gotham**, representing the 380th Bomb Group Association, is from West Lafayette, Indiana, home of Purdue University, where she was employed for over 30 years as an administrative assistant. She retired from the university in 2011.



Mrs. Gotham has been working with the 380th Bomb Group Association since the 1990s. She worked with Professor Theodore Williams at the university and assisted him with his research of and correspondence regarding the 380th Bombardment Group in WWII. He was a navigator in the 531<sup>st</sup> Squadron on the Magee crew. Together they published several volumes in the *WE WENT TO WAR* history series, which includes rosters of all wartime members of the group, details of the individual aircraft of the 380th (B-24 bombers), bombing missions, and more.

Mrs. Gotham worked closely with Professor Williams on these books (as co-author), and subsequently developed the group’s webpages, newsletters and Facebook pages. Together they ran the group’s annual reunions from 2000-2007; from 2007-2018, she solely coordinated and ran the reunions, ending with the final one held last November (2018) in Tucson. Upon Professor Williams’ death in 2013, Mrs. Gotham took over the reins of the organization.

The 380th Bombardment Group Association was formed to preserve the history of the 380th Bombardment Group (H), 5th Air Force, World War II. The bombardment group served in the Southwest Pacific Theatre in Australia, New Guinea, and The Philippines from 1943 to war’s end.

Mrs. Gotham’s work with the 380th includes making additions and updates to the *WE WENT TO WAR* history series, publishing their newsletters, and maintaining the group’s web and Facebook pages.

The group first learned of Rex Pooyouma’s WWII service in the 380th as Hopi Code Talker in 2011; we are very proud to have had him serve with the 380th.

Barb and her husband, Doug Gotham, have been married for over 20 years. Their daughter, Arika, and her husband, Brandon, live in Clinton, Tennessee, and they have four children.

**Rex Pooyouma** was born on June 17, 1915, in Hotevilla Village, Arizona, and was Corn Clan.



Mr. Pooyouma was drafted into the U.S. Army on February 16, 1942. He was selected to become a Hopi Code Talker and served with the 380th Bombardment Group (BG), 5th Air Force, in the Asiatic-Pacific theater of operations. The 380 BG conducted B-24 Liberator bombing operations throughout the Pacific. Serving on the Headquarters Staff, Rex’s military records cited he participated in the air offensive operations in China, New Guinea, Philippine Islands, and Japan. Despite many attempts, the Japanese were not able to understand or break what they thought was a coded message. The use of Hopi Code Talkers was instrumental in saving many lives of the 380th BG and the aircrew who flew on the B-24’s.

Following the end of World War II, Mr. Pooyouma was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army on November 27, 1945, in the rank of Private First Class. For his military service, he was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, and World War II Honorable Service Lapel. Mr. Pooyouma passed away on October 23, 2010, at the age of 95 years old. On November 20, 2013, his next of kin was bestowed the Congressional Hopi Code Talker Silver Medal, posthumously at Washington, D.C.

*Rex was a hardworking and well-known individual to many people. But to his family, he was humble, smart, and a well-rounded people person. Moreover, he was widely known for his shoemaking, which he held with pride and also allowed him to travel to different places. Wherever he went, he was surely to start a friendly conversation with someone he knew or had just met. No matter where he was, he was always lightening the mood with one of his many stories, jokes or even with just his presence. Rex was deeply rooted in his culture and enjoyed being surrounded by family. He never did miss a chance to be around family nor attend family events. Although he could be stubborn at times, he taught his children and grandchildren to be strong independent individuals. He cherished his family and ensured everyone was taken care of while being present in the lives of his family members. More importantly, opening his home up to others during social dances and more, goes to show the generosity he had towards his community and his willingness to help others. (Courtesy of Ms. Genell and Evelyn Pooyouma, grand-daughters)*

Thank you to the many organizations and communities for their stellar support and generous contributions for this year's event!

**MONETARY DONATIONS:**

Hopi Telecommunications, Inc.	Tonto Apache Tribe
Moenkopi Development Corporation	Hon-Dah Casino
Hopi Three Canyon Ranch	Summit Inc.
Laguna Development Corporation	Ms. Linda Koman
Ms. Evelyn Johnson	Stenson Wauneka

**IN-KIND DONATIONS:**

Office of Chairman	Office of the Vice Chairman
Super Wal-Mart—Winslow	Super Wal-Mart—Winslow
Moenkopi Legacy Inn	Second Mesa Hopi Cultural Center

Hopi Department of Transportation

**SUPPORT & LOGISTICS:**

Hopi Veterans Memorial Center Staff	KUYI Radio 88.1 FM
Hopi Resources Enforcement Services	Hopi Emergency Medical Services
VA Outreach Office – Hotevilla	H.O.P.I. Cancer Support Services
Hopi Diabetes Program	Hopi Treasurer Office
Hopi Information Technology Office	Hopi Medical Transportation
Hopi Community Emergency Response Team	
Kenn Evans, II, Park Ranger II, Homolovi State Park	

**FOOD PREPARERS:** Ms. Hanna Polewytewa and Ms. Stephanie Hyeoma for making a delicious Hopi stew and all others for your donations of yeast bread, green chili, bottled water and other items for the meal.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS:** And a special big THANK YOU to all committee members and volunteers who helped planned or donated their time and/or services in making this event successful.

For those who traveled a great distance please travel safe as you return home. See you all next year for the 2020 Hopi Code Talkers Recognition Day events. Kway kwa.

**EVENT SPONSORS:**



**Hopi Three Canyon Ranch**



**Linda Koman  
Evelyn Johnson  
Stenson Wauneka**



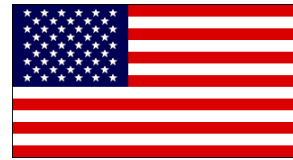
# Hopi Code Talkers Recognition Day

**Tuesday, April 23, 2019**

**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (MST)**

**Second Mesa Day School**

**Second Mesa, AZ**



*“Itàaqalèetàataqtuy Amutsviy Yep Itam Lomayesva”*

*“Because Of Our Warriors, Our Lives Are Good”*

