

Images from Lecture



Left to Right: Pfc. Preston Toledo and his cousin, Pfc. Frank Toledo with the 11th Marines, July 1943.

Courtesy of National Archives



Platoon 382
The first twenty-nine Navajo Code Talkers

Courtesy of Marine Corps Historical Society



Left to right: Oscar Iltima, Jack Nez, and Carl Gorman, Saipan, 1944

Courtesy of National Archives

Growing Up With Heroes:

THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS OF WW II



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A DAUGHTER'S JOURNEY

Lecture by Zonnie M. Gorman

THE LECTURE

The Marine Corps Navajo Code Talkers played a vital role in the Pacific campaigns during World War II. They developed and utilized a code in their native language that baffled the Japanese and helped win American victory in the Pacific.

In 1989 Zonnie Gorman embarked on a journey to discover the part of her father that was one of the original Navajo Code Talkers. With a love of history, her journey has led her through a lifetime of research, interviews, and archiving.

Zonnie shares a touching story about the Code Talkers, and particularly about her father's role as one of the first twenty-nine. You will experience the Navajo reservation of the 1940s, the US Government policy of Assimilation to eradicate indigenous languages and cultures and learn how the code was made. Zonnie's personal insights, well researched information, photographs and wry humor combine to offer a poignant, eye-opening, and stirring patriotic presentation.

You will discover that the Code Talker story is the ultimate paradox and a shining achievement for Native America.

Photo credit front: Carl Gorman Collection, Kenji Kawano



Pfc. Carl Gorman at observation post, Saipan, 1944

Courtesy of National Archives

DR. CARL NELSON GORMAN

Carl Gorman was a highly respected Navajo artist, educator, consultant and Navajo Code Talker. He was a founding faculty member of the Native American Studies Dept. at the University of California at Davis in the 1970s. He designed the official logo for the Navajo Code Talkers Association and was an active member from its beginning in 1971. He received an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of New Mexico in 1990 for his life long work and accomplishments. Among many awards given him throughout his life, he was recognized posthumously, along with his comrades, with the Gold Congressional Medal as one of the original first twenty-nine Navajo Code Talkers.

Excerpt from the Circle of Light Magazine

ZONNIE M. GORMAN

Zonnie Gorman is the daughter of the late Dr. Carl Gorman and his wife Mary. She is also the youngest sister to the legendary and renowned Navajo artist, the late R.C. Gorman.



Photo by: Nicola Majracchi

A recognized historian on the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II, Zonnie has lectured extensively throughout the United States, including several universities and colleges as well as N.A.S.A. Headquarters in Washington, DC and the Museum of the American Indian in New York.

Zonnie Gorman has appeared in several documentaries including the History Channel documentary; the MGM double DVD release (historical documentary section) of the movie *Windtalkers*; and the recently released PBS documentary, *True Whispers*.

FOR INFORMATION

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