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[www.sfcc.edu](http://www.sfcc.edu)

**The Veterans Legacy Program at Santa Fe Community College, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Commemorating our New Mexico Veterans through the sharing of their stories.**

Year one, 2021-2022, \$300K  
 Year two, 2021 – 2022, \$500 K

**Deliverables:**

160 Veteran Biographies (English and Spanish) Santa Fe National Cemetery, Fort Bayard National; Cemetery, Tribal Cemetery’s, and local Cemetery’s

19 middle and high school lesson plans

Civil War Digital Content and NM, Vietnam Digital Content

180 Santa Fe School for the Arts students and Monte Del Sol Middle School at Santa Fe National Cemetery for Memorial Day (Find a Veteran, Lesson Plan) 2021 and 2022

Art in the Military, women veterans from New Mexico

New Mexico Civil War and Vietnam Digital Content

Western New Mexico University partnership summer 2023 (six Vietnam Apache Veterans digital oral histories, 18 biographies from Fort Bayard National Cemetery) and Eight Northern Pueblo Partnership

**Budget:**

Website and social media management, \$40 K

Research Team at SFCC and WNMU, \$75K

Travel and supplies, \$10 K

**Total: \$125 K**

<https://sites.sfcc.edu/vlgp/>

<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fsfccvlgp&data=05%7C01%7Csteve.martinez4%40sfcc.edu%7Cf574b781b4fd4ce5dde608dba9a639bf%7Cba2c7e0877ca4454962bb889443334c7%7C0%7C0%7C638290303637997731%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0l9eI0x%2FaRfllfj8tYLHxWMnaiJLXvf1rMfQ%2FY1%2Fk%3D&reserved=0>

Steve Martinez, Ph.D. SFCC, 505-321-1212, [steve.martinez4@sfcc.edu](mailto:steve.martinez4@sfcc.edu)



**WESTERN**  
NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY  
*Office of the President*

August 25, 2023

Military & Veterans' Affairs Committee  
c/o New Mexico State Capitol  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Representative García and Members of the New Mexico Legislative Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs,

I write this letter to express my institution's support for and partnership with the Veterans Legacy Grant Program at Santa Fe Community College. Over the course of this past year, we have been delighted that their work has expanded to include the memorialization of New Mexico's veterans interred at Ft. Bayard National Cemetery. In addition to seeing one of our faculty and two graduate students involved in researching the stories of these veterans WNMU has been pleased to provide space for interviews of Chiricahua Apache veterans, to host a luncheon for those veterans being interviewed, and to welcome one of these veterans as a presenter at our Bi-National Indigenous Expo this past summer.

We are excited to have the opportunity to collaborate further with these efforts to memorialize and honor New Mexico's veterans.

Sincerely,

Joseph Shepard, Ph.D.  
President, Western New Mexico University



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration



This project was funded by a grant from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

## SFCC-VLGP WEBPAGE

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### CHESTER NEZ

#### CORPORAL, CHESTER NEZ, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS JANUARY 23, 1921 - JUNE 4, 2014

Navajo Code Talker | US Marine Corps | World War II



CPL Chester Nez was born in Ch' Chih Tah, New Mexico on the Navajo reservation in 1921.<sup>[1]</sup> In 1942 Marine Corp recruiters went to the reservation, looking to recruit a large number of young Navajo men to form a special unit. These men would be trained and later called "Navajo code talkers" with the ability to encrypt, transmit and decrypt messages using the Navajo language on the battle field. One of the 29 original Navajo code talkers charged with creating and transmitting the code.<sup>[2]</sup> Nez fought with the 1st and 3rd Marine divisions at Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam, Angaur and Peleliu. He was honorably discharged as a Private First Class in 1945 and returned to serve stateside during the Korean War from which he was discharged as a corporal.<sup>[3]</sup>

AMAROS

Congressional Gold Medal

Chester Nez Library of Congress Oral Recording

Chester Nez Collection



Following his military service, he worked as a painter for 25 years at a V.A. hospital in Albuquerque. In 2011 he wrote the memoir Code Talker: The First and Only Memoir by One of the Original Navajo Code Talkers of WWII with Judith Avila. Nez was one of the five living original code talkers who received the Congressional Gold Medal from President George W. Bush. Prior to his death on June 4, 2014.<sup>[4]</sup>



### HARRIET URBAN WHITE

#### WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS, HARRIET URBAN WHITE BORN: AUGUST 19, 1921 DIED: SEPTEMBER 21, 2000

Female Veteran | Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) | World War II



Photo Credit: "Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas, Harriet Urban White (43-WV-5)." Women's Airforce Service Pilots-Official Archive, Texas Woman's College.

Burial Site: SFNC, Section 6, Site 2644

AMAROS

Congressional Gold Medal

Harriet Urban (White) enlisted in the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS). Later known as the Women's Air Service Pilots (WASP), on March 23, 1943. The eight-month training was split into flying lessons and ground training, where the women learned mechanics, navigation, and weather. Approximately 10,000 women applied and only 1,074 successfully completed the training. In September of 1943, Urban graduated from the WAFS Training Division at Avenger Field in Sweet Water, Texas. In October 1943, she was sent to the USAF 3rd Ferrying Group ATC in Farmilus, Michigan, where she ferried airplanes. She later explained, "I was checked out in C-47 transports and bombers." Urban's friend and fellow pilot Anne Noggle described her as a very determined woman who took risks and was ahead of her time. Urban, along with her fellow pioneering WASPs was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2010.

Harriet Urban (White) was born in 1921 in Buffalo, New York to Major William P. and Harriet A. Urban. She attended Park School in Snyder, New York, winning the Alumni Award at Park School in 1942. Urban later attended Finch Junior College in New York City. Her first flight was a Ford Trimotor over Niagara Falls at the age of seven. In 1941 she flew a J-3 Cub solo in Springfield, Connecticut. Urban passed her instructor's flight test in May of 1942 and became a full-time flight instructor at Beaman Flying Service in Clarence, New York. She founded the Western New York Chapter of the Ninety-Nines, the International Organization of Women Pilots, and was active in the Civil Air Patrol.<sup>11 12</sup>



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration



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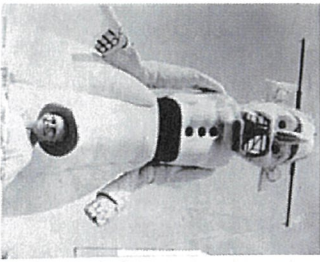
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### FIRST LIEUTENANT, US ARMY, WILLIAM HOWARD SHUSTER NOVEMBER 26, 1893 - NOVEMBER 10, 2009

US Army | World War I

Burial Site: SFNC, Plot VO 1355



First Lieutenant, US Army, Company L, 314th Infantry Regiment, 79th "Cross of Lorraine" Division, National Army, A.C.F. (American Expeditionary Force)

William Howard Shuster (1893-1969) was known as much for his eccentricity of life as for his artistic accomplishment. He remains the quintessential Santa Fe artist.

He was born in Philadelphia to William Howard Shuster, Sr. and Elizabeth Seck. He was married to Helen Ernestine Hazardus and their son Dean Byron Shuster was born July 17, 1921 at St. Vincent's Sanatorium, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

He entered military service on May 12, 1917 and was assigned to 1st Company, 4th Provisional Training Regiment (Reserve Officers Training Corps) as a cadet. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant Infantry, National Army on August 15, 1917.

On January 23, 1918 he was married to Helen Elizabeth Hazardus in St. Barnabas' Rectory, Kensington Philadelphia, Pa. They were divorced September 11, 1935 at Santa Fe, NM.

He was sent to Camp Meade, Maryland and assigned to Company A, 314th Infantry Regiment. He was commissioned 1st Lieutenant May 12, 1918 and transferred to Company L, same regiment.

He left with his unit from Hoboken, NJ to France on July 8, 1918 on the "S.S. Leviathan." The unit landed at Brest, France on July 15, 1918. The first of the Division's troops were now in France.



### CPL. EVANGELISTO "EVANS" RAMIREZ GARCIA, NM ARMY NATIONAL GUARD JUNE 19, 1913 - JANUARY 29, 2011

World War II



Burial Site: SFNC 20-180

AWDC:

EX POW | Purple Heart

Evangelisto (Evan) Ramirez Garcia enlisted in the US Army then volunteered with the NM National Guard 200th Coast Artillery, signing up with Teos H Bakers, where a lot of his friends lived. In Bataan, the 200th were "the first to fire" on the enemy at Clark Field when the Japanese invaded the Philippines. Evans survived the Bataan Death March, was a POW in the Philippines, and after surviving a hell ship journey, was a POW in Japan, working as a slave laborer in a condemned, abandoned coal mine. Evans describes how he was a cook for his Japanese captors, who caught him stealing food and sentenced him to death. "They asked me if I wanted to be blindfolded, and I told them Hell No. . . it going to take 10 Japanese to kill one American" instead of flooding Bays they beat him in front of his fellow American captives. Evans describes how he maintained his sanity though his captivity by staring into the sky and watching the clouds and thinking of his family. Evan was one of 78,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war from the Bataan Peninsula. Evans was held at the Fukuda Prison Camp No. 17 until his liberation in 1945.

At the end of the war, he came home to Santa Fe where he started his family. He worked with Selective Service in Santa Fe for 25 years, retiring in 1972. He never stopped serving his fellow veterans. He was involved with the VFW Post 2951 in Santa Fe, organized support with other Bataan Veterans to start the Bataan Memorial Museum (currently the NM Military Museum) and

# VA



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SFCC Veterans Legacy Grant Program  
The SFCC Veterans Legacy Grant Program (SFCC VLGP) commemorates our New Mexican Veterans through the discovery and sharing of their stories.  
[sites.sfcc.edu/vlgp + 4](#)

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# VA

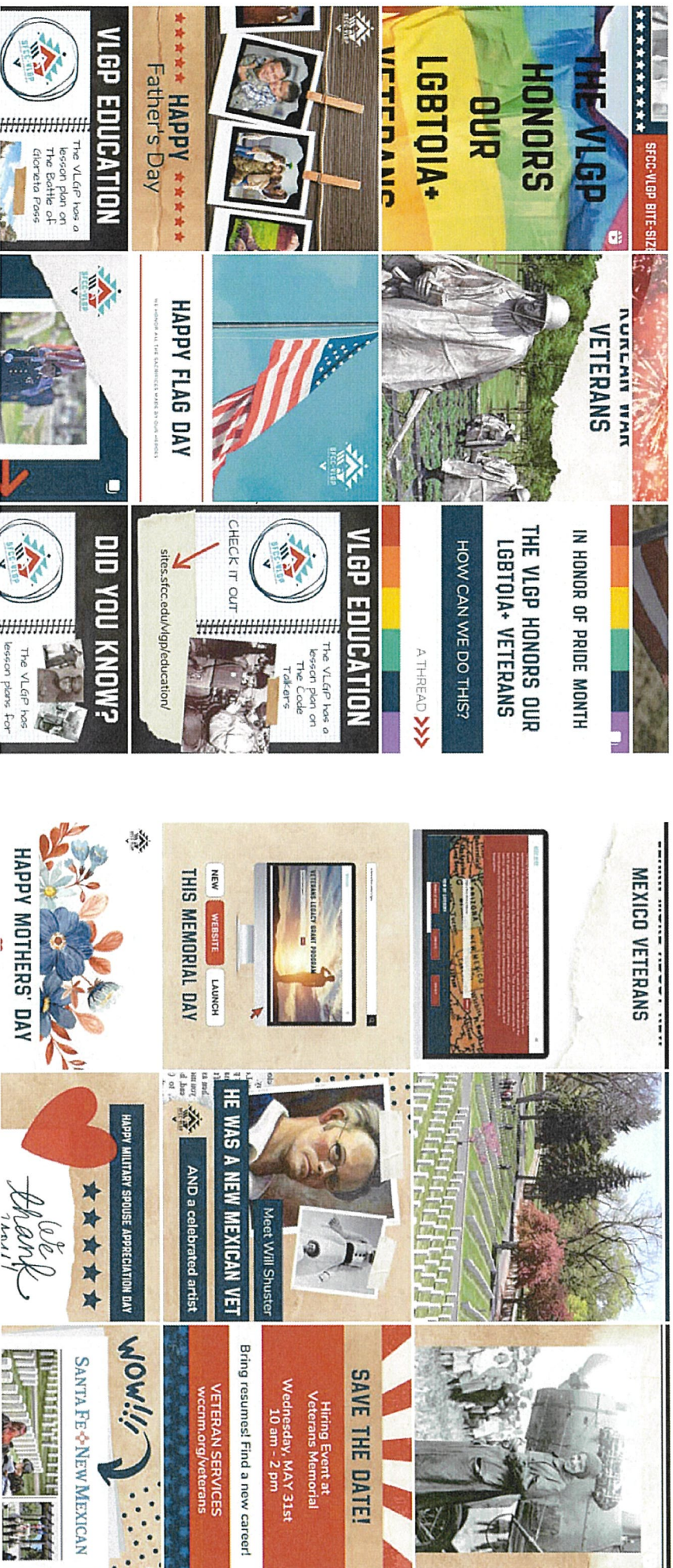


U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration

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## SFCC-VLGP INSTAGRAM



# VA



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**  
National Cemetery Administration



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**WILLIAM SHUSTER**  
ART AND SERVICE  
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William Shuster - A Life of Art and Service

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1:24

What Memorial Day is Really About

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### Intro

SFCC-VLGP commemorates our New Mexican Veterans through the discovery and sharing of their stories

Page · Education website



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### Photos

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SFCC Veterans Legacy Grant Program  
Yesterday at 10:00 AM · 🌐  
As a part of our bite-sized docuseries, we will be dropping our video about the Bataan Death March, this week. Make sure to check out our page for a link to the video!!

Boost this post to reach up to 292 more people if you spend \$14.

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