



Pokagon Band  
of Potawatomi



Detachment 151  
Grand Rapids, Michigan



Nottawaseppi Huron  
Band of Potawatomi



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2011  
[WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MIW](http://WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MIW)

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**U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY,  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENT 151, AND LOCAL TRIBES  
PARTNER TO PRESENT  
SAMUEL F. SANDOVAL, NAVAJO CODE TALKER**

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN -- Each year, the U.S. Attorney's Office honors veterans and celebrates Native American Heritage Month (November) by hosting various programs. This year the U.S. Attorney's Office combined those programs in one celebration by welcoming Navajo Code Talker Samuel F. Sandoval to Grand Rapids. Mr. Sandoval spoke today to an audience of almost 700 invited guests at Grand Valley State University's Eberhard Center as part of this year's program.

After Mr. Sandoval accepted the invitation to speak, the U.S. Attorney's Office joined forces with Grand Valley State University's Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Marine Corps League, Fred Cochran Detachment 151, to host the event due to the broad interest in Mr. Sandoval's story. In addition, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi provided their support and assistance to ensure a proper welcome to West Michigan for Mr. Sandoval.

Mr. Sandoval, 88, born in Nageezi, New Mexico, joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943. He participated as a Navajo Code Talker in five combat duties in the South Pacific including Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Pelelui, Guam, and Okinawa. He was the only Navajo Code Talker to participate in the 3rd Marine Division's 1st Amphibious Corps landing at Guam's Agat beach.

In welcoming Mr. Sandoval to Grand Rapids, U.S. Attorney Donald A. Davis noted that "America is strong, proud, and free because of him and all veterans like him, who served their country at times of great peril." U.S. Attorney Davis encourages all residents of West Michigan to thank a veteran this Veterans Day and to spend time honoring our veterans in some way.