

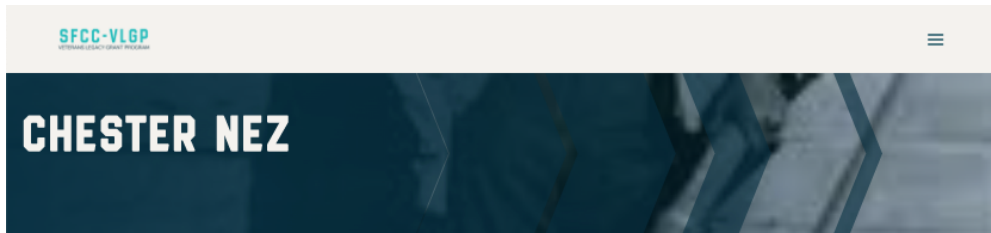


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This project was funded by a grant from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

## SFCC-VLGP WEBPAGE



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

[Navajo Code Talker](#) | [US Marine Corps](#) | [World War II](#)



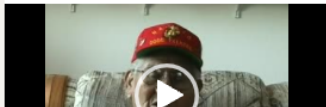
**Burial Site:** SFNC, Section 21, Grave 555

#### AWARDS

[Congressional Gold Medal](#)

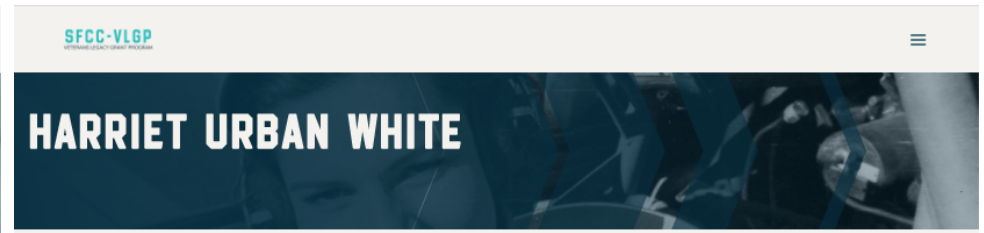
[Chester Nez Library of Congress Oral Recording](#)

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CPT Chester Nez was born in Chi Chil 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine divisions at Guadacanal, 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>

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>



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

[Female Veteran](#) | [Women's Airforce Service Pilots \(WASPs\)](#) | [World War II](#)



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

**Burial Site:** SFNC, Section 6, Site 2644

#### AWARDS

[Congressional Gold Medal](#)

Harriet Urban (White) enlisted in the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), later known as the Women's Air Service Pilots (WASPs), on March 23, 1943. The eight-month training was split into flying lessons and ground training, where the women learned mechanics, navigation, and weather.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> In October 1943, she was sent to the USAF 3<sup>rd</sup> Ferrying Group ATC in Romulus, Michigan, where she ferried airplanes.<sup>3</sup> She later explained, "I was checked out in C-47 transports and bombers."<sup>4</sup> Urban's friend and fellow pilot Anne Noggle described her as a very determined pioneer who took risks and was ahead of her time.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> Her first flight was in a Ford Trimotor over Niagara Falls at the age of seven.<sup>8</sup> In 1941 she flew a J-3 Cub solo in Stonington, Connecticut.<sup>8</sup> Urban passed her instructor's flight test in May of 1942 and became a full-time flight instructor at Beacon Flying Service in Clarence, New York.<sup>9</sup> 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>8, 10, 11</sup>



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# WILLIAM HOWARD SHUSTER, JR.

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

US Army | World War I

Burial Site: SFNC, Plot V0 1355



First Lieutenant, US Army, Company L, 314th Infantry Regiment, 79th "Cross of Lorraine" Division, National Army, A.E.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 Steck. He was married to Helen Ernestine Hasenfus and their son Don 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 Hasenfus 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.

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# EVANGELISTO "EVANS" RAMIREZ GARCIA

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

World War II

Burial Site: SFNC 20-180

**AWARD:**  
EX POW | Purple Heart



Evangelisto (Evans) Ramirez Garcia enlisted in the US Army then volunteered with the NM National Guard 200th Coast Artillery, signing up with Taos H Battery, 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... is it going to take 10 Japanese to kill one American" instead of shooting Evans they beat him in front of his fellow American captives. Evans describes how he maintained his sanity though his captivity by starrng 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 Fukuoka 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-VLGP commemorates our New Mexican Veterans through the discovery and sharing of their stories

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