

The 2025 parade will feature two Ceremonial Redwood Dugout Canoes honoring Elder Native American Veterans. Traditionally, these sleek river dugouts were hand-carved with elk horn. They were used for fishing salmon and sturgeon, the White Deerskin Dance and the Boat Dance along the Klamath and Trinity rivers. Wood-carving master George Wilson created the dugout canoes you see today.



The Native American Veterans Ceremonial Redwood Dugout



Chitcus, U.S. Marine 1965/68



World War II, Korea, and Vietnam Veterans

I'm still alive. All I ask is a helping hand for my fallen brothers and sisters!

*Returning from Vietnam, Agent Orange wasn't discussed for fear of being labeled. Yet, its aftereffects continue to indiscriminately kill. Our Agent Orange Veterans need help.*

Poster art credit: JJ Brown





*In the moment of crisis, the Native American warrior will rise and bear arms to protect ones village and our country. The sons and daughters of our grandparents regardless of the past animosities have always walked “arm in arm” and responded to the call of duty!*

*Here is where our (fathers and mothers) flags are to be praised as well revered, knowing that, as warriors we must protect, preserve, and perpetuate the freedom past veterans fought for and sacrificed their lives so that we today each live in peace at home.*

*Today, as in yesterday 65 years ago I served with the U.S. Marines in South Vietnam.*

*Now, as an elder, I at the drop of a feather would serve again to defend what our Veteran soldiers fought for; “Freedom.”*

*Chitcus, U.S. Marine Corp. 1965/68, A Vietnam Veteran*



*I stand again before the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. still perplexed why our country sacrificed 65,751 Veterans in the South Vietnam War.*

*Today, moreso than yesterday, I look back and with great conviction feel that I have carried forward our family’s “call to duty.” My own dad and his family did not question our commitment to duty. Many did not return from South Vietnam and World War II.*

*It is with honor I said my oath as a U.S. Marine.  
Chitcus, 65/68*

*Chitcus*



**WE SALUTE OUR FIRST DEFENDERS.**

AMERICAN INDIAN PRESERVATION FUND ✕ P.O. BOX 970, BODEGA BAY, CA 94923 ✕ 415-608-3157

Please consider making a donation to the 2025 Native American Veterans Section of the Petaluma Veterans Day Parade by visiting our website, [ChitcusFirstDefenders.com](http://ChitcusFirstDefenders.com) (QR code to right. Click the “Donate” button.

For AIPF parade section sponsorships contact Chitcus at 415-608-3157.



Website:  
[ChitcusFirstDefenders.com](http://ChitcusFirstDefenders.com)