Eighth Army Observance Message
2021 National American Indian Heritage Month

During National American Indian Heritage Month, celebrated each year during November, Eighth Army recognizes the outstanding contributions made by American Indian Soldiers to our great nation and Eighth Army. In keeping with this tradition, we recognize Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble, the first Dakota Sioux Indian awarded the Medal of Honor.

On October 20, 1951, Master Sergeant Keeble led the support platoon in Company G, 19th Infantry, in an attack on Hill 765 near Sangsan-ni, Korea, a steep and rugged position well-defended by the enemy. When Keeble saw attacking elements from Company G pinned down on the slope by heavy fire from three well-fortified enemy positions, he dashed forward and joined the pinned-down platoon. With complete disregard for his personal safety, hugging the ground, Master Sergeant Keeble crawled forward alone until he was in close proximity to one of the hostile machine-gun emplacements. Ignoring the heavy fire the enemy trained on him, Master Sergeant Keeble activated a grenade and threw it with great accuracy, successfully destroying the position. Continuing his one-man assault, he moved to the second enemy position and destroyed it with another grenade. Despite the fact that the enemy troops were now directing their firepower against him and unleashing a shower of grenades in a frantic attempt to stop his advance, he moved forward against the third hostile emplacement, and skillfully neutralized the remaining enemy position. Inspired by his courage, Company G successfully moved forward and seized its important objective. For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble received the Medal of Honor.

The extraordinary courage, selfless service, and devotion to duty displayed that day by Master Sergeant Keeble was an inspiration to all around him. Today, Eighth Army Soldiers continue this proud legacy as they stand ready to “Fight Tonight.”

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