



January 19, 2019



The Marine Corps recruited Navajo Code Talkers in 1941 and 1942. After the Navajo code was developed, the Marine Corps established a Code Talking school. As WWII progressed, more than 400 Navajos were eventually recruited as Code Talkers. The training was intense. Following their basic training, the Code Talkers completed extensive training in communications and memorizing the code. The Navajo Code Talkers developed their own code dictionary. This dictionary was kept secret for many years and was only made public in 1968. They served proudly, with honor and distinction. Their actions proved critical in several important campaigns, and they are credited with saving thousands of American and allies' lives.



**LAURA TOHE** is Diné. She is Sleepy Rock clan born for the Bitter Water clan and the daughter of a Navajo Code Talker. She holds a Ph.D. in Indigenous American Literature. A librettist and an award-winning poet, her books include *No Parole Today*, *Making Friends with Water* (chapbook), *Sister Nations* (edited), *Tséyi*, *Deep in the Rock*, and *Code Talker Stories* (oral history). She wrote a commissioned libretto, *Enemy Slayer, A Navajo Oratorio*, for the Phoenix Symphony. Currently she is writing a libretto for an opera to be produced in Europe in 2019. She is Professor with Distinction in Indigenous Literature at Arizona State University and is the Navajo Nation Poet Laureate for 2015-2019.

She will be speaking to us on:

**NAVAJO CODE TALKERS**

Saturday January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

McCormick Ranch Golf Club

REGISTRATION/RESERVATION must be received by 4:00 p.m. **Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**

**\$25 per person** includes lunch. Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA Send to: Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85020

Or contact Charlie at 602-943-0028 or Charles.bitner@gmail.com