



AIANTA
American Indian Alaska Native
Tourism Association

Introducing America's First Nations to the World

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Liz Anderson

(505) 724-3578

eanderson@aianta.org

American Indians and the Civil War **Makes a Landmark Debut in Washington, DC**

American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association shares unprecedented Indian Country accomplishment with Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn

Albuquerque, New Mexico (July 31, 2013) - Last week, American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) President Mary Jane Ferguson and AIANTA executives presented a copy of the cultural heritage interpretive book, *American Indians and the Civil War* to Department of the Interior (DOI) Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn in Washington, DC.

"AIANTA is dedicated to the development of an American Indian tourism industry that promotes the authenticity of our cultural presentations and history," said AIANTA President Mary Jane Ferguson and member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. "We hope this book will enlighten the readers' understanding to the significant contributions and sacrifices that Native Americans have given to our shared history."

Through a cooperative agreement between the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and AIANTA, copies of the book were sent to tribal colleges and universities, Indian primary and secondary schools across America, in addition to tribal museums and cultural centers. AIANTA President Mary Jane Ferguson, DOI Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn and Associate Director of Interpretation and Education for the National Park Service Julia Washburn sent these educational institutions a joint letter to express the significance of this landmark publication. (To read the letter, visit <http://aianta.org/News.aspx>.)

"The Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) are thankful that we were able to support the inclusion of American Indian tribes in the sesquicentennial of the Civil War," said Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn. "The documentation of important tribal histories throughout this publication are essential for our Nation's history."



AIANTA

American Indian Alaska Native
Tourism Association

Introducing America's First Nations to the World

The National Park Service (NPS) made a commitment to include American Indian voices in the 2011-2015 150th anniversary commemoration of America's Civil War. To honor that commitment, NPS partnered with AIANTA, BIA, BIE and publisher Eastern National to produce the book.

"Native American history is American history," said Julia Washburn, Associate Director of Interpretation and Education, National Park Service. "This is the first opportunity of many commemorations in history that will include American Indian voices. The NPS is grateful to our partners at AIANTA, BIA and BIE for helping develop the book and for funding the outreach to tribal schools."

Book authors include 11 Native American and non-Native American scholars from across the country, including Editor Robert K. Sutton, Daniel Wildcat and Elliot West. *American Indians and the Civil War* is now available at www.eParks.com and in select national parks across the country for \$9.95.



*From left to right: Julia Washburn, National Park Service Associate Director of Interpretation and Education, DOI Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, and AIANTA President Mary Jane Ferguson
(Photo credit: Tami Heilemann)*

About AIANTA

The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit association of Native American tribes and tribal businesses that



AIANTA

American Indian Alaska Native
Tourism Association

Introducing America's First Nations to the World

was incorporated in 2002 to advance Indian Country tourism. The association is made up of member tribes from six regions: Alaska, Eastern, Midwest, Pacific, Plains and the Southwest. AIANTA's mission is to define, introduce, grow and sustain American Indian and Alaska Native tourism that honors and preserves tribal traditions and values.

The purpose of AIANTA is to provide our constituents with the voice and tools needed to advance tourism while helping tribes, tribal organizations and tribal members create infrastructure and capacity through technical assistance, training and educational resources. AIANTA serves as the liaison between Indian Country, governmental and private entities for the development, growth, and sustenance of Indian Country tourism. By developing and implementing programs and providing economic development opportunities, AIANTA helps tribes build for their future while sustaining and strengthening their cultural legacy.

To learn more, please visit www.aianta.org. For current updates, like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter ([@OfficialAIANTA](#)).

###