



The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians to Host Company K Memorial Highway Dedication

[Peshawbestown, Michigan] — The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) will host a Company K Memorial Highway Dedication on May 27, 2026, at the Leelanau Sands Showroom. The event will bring together community members, Tribal leaders, veterans, elected officials, and regional partners to honor the Anishinaabe soldiers of Company K of the 1st Michigan Sharpshooters for their service and sacrifice during the Civil War.

The dedication will recognize the historic contributions of Native American soldiers and commemorate what is believed to be the only memorial highway in the nation dedicated specifically to Native American Civil War veterans.

We would be greatly honored to have all veterans join us. The event will include remarks from Tribal leadership and invited guests, and opportunities for community members to learn more about the history and significance of Company K and the lasting legacy of Anishinaabe service.

Chairwoman Sandra Witherspoon emphasized the importance of honoring those who came before us and ensuring their stories continue to be shared with future generations.

“Recognizing the legacy of Company K is not only about honoring the past — it is about ensuring that the sacrifices, resilience, and contributions of our Anishinaabe veterans are remembered and carried forward for future generations. This dedication reflects our responsibility to tell our own history and to honor those who served with courage and distinction.”

Members of the public and media are encouraged to attend.

Event Details

- **Date:** May 27, 2026
- **Time:** 1:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Leelanau Sands Casino, 2521 N. West Bay Shore Dr., Peshawbestown, MI 49682

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The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) is a federally recognized Tribe whose citizens are the Kchi-Wiikwedong Anishinaabek, the original inhabitants of the Grand Traverse Bay region. GTB, along with 4 other Tribal nations, is a signatory of the 1836 Treaty of Washington, which recognizes the sovereign rights of Tribal Citizens to hunt, fish, gather and live within their traditional homeland. This treaty deeded over the land base that would become the state of Michigan in 1837. In 1855, GTB was given a reservation of 87,000 acres in Leelanau County. In 1872, this reservation was illegally terminated by the U.S. Government. After restoration of federal recognition in 1980, GTB's Service Area now comprises six counties in northern lower Michigan, within which a scattered patchwork of 2,981 acres are under Tribal ownership. Peshawbestown, holding GTB's largest community and governing seat, is situated on West Grand Traverse Bay, an arm of Lake Michigan.