

## **U.S. Army Sergeant and Seminole Tribe Member Gabriel Coppedge to be Honored for Service on Feb. 21 at 12:20 p.m. at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino; Tribute to be Broadcast Live Worldwide**

### **Special Event Will Also Rally Support for Seminole Tribe of Florida's Native American Veterans Memorial Initiative**

**Hollywood, Fla.** (February 17, 2011) - United States Army Sergeant Gabriel Coppedge will be honored for his service to our country at a special tribute to be celebrated and broadcasted live worldwide on Monday, February 21 at 12:20 p.m. from the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. This homage will not only serve as an opportunity to thank Sgt. Coppedge and the rest of the active troops for their hard work, sacrifice and dedication to our country, but will also serve as a 33rd birthday celebration for him.

Presented by Seminole Media Productions in conjunction with the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Champions 4 Champions and GS Plus, this event will also serve to rally support for the Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman Mitchell Cypress' recently-announced Native American Veterans Memorial initiative which seeks to honor past and present Native Americans who have served in all branches of the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

Sgt. Coppedge, a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, is currently serving in the United States Army in Kuwait and is the only active duty member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. He enlisted in the United States Army in 2001 and completed his basic training at Fort Benning, GA. He was assigned to Alpha Company 2nd Battalion, 30th infantry in Fort Polk, LA. Coppedge has served two tours in the Middle East, a tour in Afghanistan from 2006-2007 followed by a tour in Iraq from 2007-2008. After an honorable discharge with the rank of E5, Coppedge re-enlisted with the Army Reserves. As a member of the Army Reserves, he volunteered for a mission originally intended for Iraq, but was then assigned to Kuwait after the mobilization process had begun. He is currently the Postal Operations Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge at the Naval Post in Kuwait.

Seminole Media Productions has arranged for the tribute to be broadcast live from the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino to Sgt. Coppedge and his entire unit in Kuwait via a special video teleconference hook-up. The special video arrangement allows for complete interaction between the troops in Kuwait and the crowd in Hollywood, Florida, that will include all of Sgt. Coppedge's family from both Florida and Arizona. The event will be broadcast across the world on the Armed Forces Network via the Pentagon Channel and the United States Army Public Affairs First Sustainment Brigade.

In addition to the family and unit well wishes, the program will also include a surprise personalized birthday greeting from various members of the Arizona Cardinals, Coppedge's favorite sports team. The organization will be sending all of the soldiers in his unit Arizona Cardinals gear. The United States and Seminole Tribe colors will be presented by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Color Guard and The Red Boys pow-wow singers and Spencer Battiest will perform The National Anthem.

To further raise awareness about the Seminole Tribe's support for our country, this event will also include Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman Mitchell Cypress' call to all Tribal leaders, military veterans and individuals around the globe, to join him in supporting the Native American Veterans Memorial Initiative. The recently-announced initiative seeks to honor Native Americans who have served in all branches of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, including Native Americans who have served in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. It seeks the inclusion of a Native American soldier to be represented alongside the existing African American, Asian, and Caucasian soldiers represented on the National Mall located in Washington D.C. For more information on this initiative please visit [www.thenavmi.com](http://www.thenavmi.com).

For more information about the Sgt. Gabriel Coppedge Live Broadcast Tribute and the Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman Mitchell Cypress' Native American Veterans Memorial Initiative, please contact S.R. Tommie at [srtommie@semtribe.com](mailto:srtommie@semtribe.com)

### **About Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood**

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino invites you to PLAYHARD! Play, stay, dine, and shop at South Florida's ultimate entertainment destination. Eighty-nine tables offer Blackjack, Baccarat, Mini-Baccarat, Pai Gow Poker, Three Card Poker, Texas Hold'em Bonus Poker, Casino War and Let it Ride on a nearly three-acre casino floor. Play one of the more than 2,500 Vegas-style slots including the Native-American Casino linked Multi-Area Progressive Jackpots and Mega Jackpots. Separate high-limit

rooms for table games and slots, in addition to a non-smoking room are available for guests to enjoy. Loyal Player's Club members may enjoy an exclusive VIP Plum Lounge and VIP Chef's Table show kitchen. Convene in The Poker Room at Seminole Paradise for Texas Hold 'em, limit Texas Hold 'em, Seven Card Stud and two dollar and four dollar limit Omaha Hi Lo games. Located inside the casino is Hard Rock Cafe -Hollywood, part of Hard Rock's 130 globally recognized rock 'n roll themed restaurants. The Green Lodging Certified by the State of Florida, AAA, Four Diamond rated resort showcases 500 luxurious guest rooms, 18 restaurants and lounges, 40,000-square-feet of meeting room space, a European-style spa, auto salon, 25 boutique shops, 12 nightclubs, Paradise Live, and Hard Rock Live, a 5,500- seat concert arena. Located on State Road 7 (U.S. 441) in Hollywood, Florida. Take I-95, exit Stirling Rd. and travel west to 1 Seminole Way. For more information, call (954) 327-ROCK, 1 800-937-0010 or 1 800-937-0010 or visit us online at [www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com](http://www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com) or [www.facebook.com/seminolehardrockhollywood](https://www.facebook.com/seminolehardrockhollywood).

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**Editor's Note:** There will be a special media interview session available before the show begins at 12:20 p.m. The live broadcast to the troops will begin at 1 p.m. and end at 2 p.m. Please contact us for any special interview requests.