

Notable American Indian

U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell



- born in Auburn, California on April 13, 1933
- mother, Mary Vierra, was a Portuguese immigrant
- father, Albert Campbell, was a Northern Cheyenne Indian
- the only American Indian presently serving in the United States Senate, and is one of 44 Chiefs of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- received a bachelors degree in physical education and fine arts from San Jose University in 1957 and later attended Meiji University in Tokyo in 1960 as a special research student
- served in the U.S. Air force from 1951-53, stationed in Korea, where he attained the rank of Airman 2nd Class
- Campbell is a renowned jewelry designer, rancher, and trainer of champion quarter horses. He has also been a judo instructor.
- He was elected to the Colorado State Legislature in 1982, serving for four years.
- Elected to the U.S. Senate November 3, 1992, and again on November 3, 1998
- Campbell is the first American Indian to chair the Indian Affairs Committee.
- Senator Campbell is a member of five key Senate Committees: Indian Affairs Committee; Appropriations Committee; Energy and Natural Resources Committee; Veterans' Affairs Committee; and the Environment and Public Works Committee. In addition Campbell chairs the Helsinki Commission.
- In the 2000 census, Native American populations (American Indian, Alaskan Aleut) make up 0.9% of U.S. population, or 2, 532,817 people.



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