

“Always the Hour”

Through music, stories of our past have been preserved and shared so they will not be forgotten in the future. On this piece, sheets of music provide the background for the story of Oklahoman, Gus Palmer, who was a member of the Kiowa Tribe.

Gus Palmer was born on January 1, 1919, and died on November 18, 2016.

During World War II, Gus served in the US Army Air Corps. Gus was assigned to the 413th Bomber Squadron, whose insignia is depicted in the upper right corner of the piece. He was a waist gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress, within the 96th Bomb Group. During his tour of duty, he flew on 18 successful bomb runs which left from the coast of England, as depicted in the lower right corner of the piece.

The Motto of the 96th Bomb Group is “E Sempre Lora.” (Always the Hour)

The metal headdress (Fabricated by 3DM Metal Arts) signifies Gus’ accomplishments within the Kiowa Tribe. As an active tribal member, Gus helped revive the Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society, which was established to honor veterans.

We hope this piece honors Gus.