

Col. Childers Now Job Corps Coordinator

Ernest Childers, an Oklahoma Indian who won the Congressional Medal of Honor in World War II, has joined the Interior Department's Job Corps staff as regional coordinator for the eastern United States.

In this job, he will represent the Department in Job Corps contracts with the Office of Economic Opportunity and other agencies at the field level. His zone will soon include 14 Job Corps conservation centers.

A Creek Indian, born in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, he attended Bureau of Indian affairs boarding schools through the high school level. He entered the National Guard in 1937, and received a battlefield commission in Sicily in 1943.

In Italy on Sept. 22, 1943, although wounded, Childers wiped out two German machine gun nests virtually single handed, and captured an armed mortar observer at the point of what later proved to be an empty carbine.

For this action, he became one of only two Indians to receive the Medal of Honor in World War II. He has also won the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Commendation Medal, Italian Cross of Valor, and the first Oklahoma Distinguished Service Medal ever awarded.

He retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel in 1965. His last five years in the Army were spent supervising Fifth Army ROTC reserves and components from Fort Riley, Kansas, and Alaska.

Childers, 49, is married and has two children.