

Cherokees Name Mountain After Admiral Joseph J. "Jocko" Clark

Cherokees of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians have voted to name a North Carolina mountain peak in honor of the late Admiral Joseph J. "Jocko" Clark, the military's highest ranking officer of Cherokee lineage.

A native of Pryor, Okla., Admiral Clark was graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1917 and began a long, colorful career that spanned two world wars and the Korean conflict.

During the Korean War, Admiral Clark directed Navy air operations. Because of his pinpoint bombing of Korean military targets, comrades dubbed

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ADMIRAL CLARK

Scheduled for Oct. 5, the naming of the mountain is part of this year's Cherokee Fall Festival at Cherokee, N.C. The peak is in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Another mountain will be named for a Confederate Army general, Stand Watie, who commanded a regiment known as the "Cherokee Mounted Rifles."

Mountain Clark . . .

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his tactics "Cherokee Strikes."

Among other awards, he earned the Navy Cross, Silver Star Medal, and Legion of Merit with Combat "V." He served as assistant chief of Naval Operations for Air from 1946-48.

After his retirement in 1953, Admiral Clark served with a New York investment firm and a number of volunteer organizations. He died in 1971.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, General Watie, as did most Cherokees, tried to avoid being drawn into the war. However, circumstances soon found him

in charge of a home guard unit which became the Cherokee Mounted Rifles regiment.

One of his engagements was an overwhelming victory in the battle of Wilson's Creek. He was one of the last confederate officers to surrender, yielding up his sword in June, 1865.

Among those expected to take part are Admiral Clark's widow, the former Olga Choubaroff, who lives in New York.

Also participating in the ceremony Oct. 5 was retired Vice Admiral Bernard M. Streat, who commanded a fighter squadron aboard the Yorktown when Admiral Clark was the skipper. Admiral Streat will be the dedicatory speaker for the Mt. Clark dedication.

Retired Army General William C. Westmoreland, U.S. Army, will make the dedicatory remarks for the naming of Mount Watie. General Westmoreland commanded U.S. Forces in Vietnam and was Army Chief of Staff before retiring. He is a native of South Carolina.

The Cherokee Fall Festival began in 1914 as a Thanksgiving celebration. It has grown into a gathering of the entire Cherokee nation and features Indian songs, dances and crafts.