

As a career army officer and committed public servant, Lloyd R. Moses devoted a lifetime to defending and improving his country and state.

Lloyd Roosevelt Moses was born 30 September 1904 in Fairfax, South Dakota, to Alice Shelden Moses and James H. Moses. He spent his childhood helping his parents farm and ranch on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, where he was an enrolled tribal member. Moses attended White Thunder Indian Day School and graduated from high school in Colome. In 1926, he entered the University of South Dakota, majoring in chemistry.

After graduating in 1931, Moses taught chemistry at Sioux Falls College and served as an officer in the United States Army Reserve. Entering into active duty in 1940, he served as a battalion commander with the Seventy-fifth Infantry Division in Missouri, at army ground forces headquarters in Washington, D.C., and on the theater staff and with the Seventeenth Airborne Division in Europe. Following World War II, he was a primary officer in organizing the Berlin Airlift and developing the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). During the Korean conflict, he commanded the Thirty-first Infantry.

In the course of his military career, Moses rose to the rank of major general and was stationed in Germany, Japan, and numerous points throughout the United States. He received many military awards, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the nation's highest peacetime military award. In 1964, he retired as deputy commanding general of the Fifth United States Army following thirty-three years of service.

Settling in Vermillion, South Dakota, with his wife Ruth West Moses, Lloyd Moses became director of the Institute of Indian Studies at the University of South Dakota. There, from 1967 to 1974, he worked to help American Indian students and strengthen Indian-related programs. He was also active in the South Dakota and Clay County historical societies and helped to prepare more than thirty historical markers located throughout southeast South Dakota. In 1978, he was inducted into the South Dakota Heritage Hall of Fame.

Moses summed up his life in his autobiography, *Whatever It Takes*, calling himself "a cowhand who made the Army a career and who proved that you do not have to be a superstar to become a major general." Lloyd Moses died in Vermillion on 27 August 2000 at the age of ninety-five.

by Veronica J. Urquhart

Dakota Images



Lloyd R. Moses

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