



## The significance of my President's pin.

My father, Anthony Zamora whom I became eligible under his service in Vietnam from 1967 to 1970 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> person from Taos Pueblo, New Mexico to be awarded with a Bronze Medal.

The Sangre de Cristo mountains in the background is where our sacred Blue Lake is located and restricted only to enrolled Taos Pueblo members. The Pueblo is shown with golden leaves as autumn is only of my favorite seasons. The buffalo is symbolic and an important way of life as Taos Pueblo was one of the first tribes to raise buffalo. The moon or atom is a symbol to represent my husband's family (Father, Grandfather and Uncle) who worked at the Los Alamos National Lab.

The hanging bear claw is to represent my mother's clan. Her father, my great grandfather was Chief Jack House, the last traditional chief of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. Followed by the feather of the United States Flag and the State of New Mexico Flag.

The Medicine Wheel is powerful symbol of healing, spiritual growth, guidance, and protection. The

Medicine Wheel is composed of four directions—north, south, east, and west—and four colors—white, yellow, red, and black—all of which represent the forces of nature. The four directions symbolize the four seasons, and the four colors represent the four elements: air, fire, water, and earth. The Medicine Wheel is also believed to represent the four stages of life: childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age. Additionally, it is seen as a representation of the four stages of the journey of life: learning, completing, teaching, and growing. It is a powerful symbol of the interconnectedness of all things and the importance of maintaining a balance between physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. The Medicine Wheel was also used to bring balance and harmony to the community and to the individual as reminder to be mindful and aware of our own personal journey, and to honor and respect all life.

We often see the Zia symbol and think of New Mexico since it is on our state flag however there is more meaning to it therefore, I added the information from [History of the Zia Sun Symbol – Zia x Organ Mountain \(ziapueblo.co\)](https://www.ziapueblo.co/history-of-the-zia-sun-symbol-zia-x-organ-mountain)

## History of the Zia Sun Symbol

The Zia Sun Symbol is a sacred emblem of the Zia Pueblo people, one of the 19 Native American Pueblos of New Mexico, USA. The symbol is a simple but powerful representation of the Zia worldview and its four sacred obligations. It has become an iconic symbol of the state of New Mexico and is recognized and revered by people around the world.

The Zia Sun Symbol consists of a red circle with four sets of four rays emanating from it in four directions. The number four is a sacred number to the Zia, representing the four cardinal directions, the four seasons of the year, the four stages of life, and the four sacred obligations one must develop: a strong body, a clear mind, a pure spirit, and a devotion to the welfare of others.

The Zia Sun Symbol has a long and storied history. The Zia Pueblo has existed for over a thousand years, and its people have used the symbol for much of that time. The exact origin of the symbol is unknown, but it is believed to have been created by a Zia artist or spiritual leader many centuries ago.

The Zia Pueblo was one of the many Native American communities that were impacted by the arrival of European colonizers in the 16th century. The Spanish colonizers brought with them Christianity, which they attempted to impose on the Native American people. The Zia people, like many others, were forced to adopt new religious practices and abandon their traditional beliefs.

Despite this pressure, the Zia Sun Symbol survived as a powerful symbol of the Zia people and their culture. It continued to be used in ceremonies and daily life, and was passed down from generation to generation. It remained an important part of the Zia identity, even as their way of life was threatened by external forces.

In the 19th century, the Zia Pueblo faced a new threat: the United States government. The US government began to push the Native American people off their land, forcibly relocating them to reservations and attempting to assimilate them into American culture. The Zia people, like many others, were subjected to years of oppression and hardship.

Despite this, the Zia Sun Symbol continued to be an important part of Zia life. The symbol became a way for the Zia people to express their identity and their connection to their traditional culture. It was used in ceremonies and on everyday objects, and it remained a powerful symbol of the Zia worldview.

In the early 20th century, the Zia Sun Symbol was adopted as the official symbol of the state of New Mexico. In 1925, the New Mexico State Legislature officially adopted the Zia Sun Symbol as the state's emblem. The symbol's meaning of the four sacred obligations and the four cardinal directions made it an appropriate choice for the state, which prided itself on its multicultural heritage and its connection to the land.

Since then, the Zia Sun Symbol has become an iconic image of the state of New Mexico. It appears on the state flag, as well as on numerous other objects and structures throughout the state. It has become a powerful symbol of the state's identity, representing its connection to the land and its diverse cultural heritage.

In conclusion, the Zia Sun Symbol is a powerful symbol of the Zia Pueblo people and their culture. Its history stretches back over a thousand years, and it has survived centuries of oppression and hardship. Today, the symbol remains an important part of the Zia identity, and it has become an iconic symbol of the state of New Mexico. The Zia Sun Symbol is a testament to the resilience of the Zia people and their enduring connection to their traditional culture.