



## Across the Nation

*Denver*

### Site memorializes massacre of Indians

More than 142 years after a band of Colorado militia volunteers massacred 150 sleeping Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians, a memorial to the event was officially dedicated Saturday.

The Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, 160 miles southeast of Denver, pays tribute to those killed in the Nov. 29, 1864, attack.

Seeking revenge for the killings of several settlers by Indians, 700 militia members slaughtered nearly everyone in the village. Most were women or children.

Descendants of some of the victims were among several hundred people at Saturday's

dedication on the rolling hills of the southeastern Colorado plains. A mock village of 17 teepees was set up in a grove of cottonwood trees along a creek that historians believe marks the site of the killings.

After a prayer and a blessing for the troops in Iraq, members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes chanted and played drums. "It's a site of shame, but it's finally being memorialized properly," said David Halaas, a former state historian.