

National Native American Heritage Month

November is National Native American Heritage Month. This month and every month, we celebrate the ingenuity, culture, and resiliency of Native communities.

Native American Heritage Month, celebrated in November, recognizes the contributions and achievements of Native Americans and has its roots in early 20th century efforts to acknowledge Indigenous peoples.

The observance of Native American Heritage Month began with America Indian Day, first declared by New York in 1916. This was part of a broader movement to recognize the contributions of Native peoples to American society.

In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, President Gerald Ford proclaimed the week of October 10-16 as Native American Awareness Week. This marked a significant step in raising awareness about Native American history and culture.

In 1990, Congress passed a joint resolution designating November as National American Indian Heritage Month. This resolution was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush, officially recognizing the month as a time to celebrate the rich history and contributions of Native Americans.

Since its establishment, each year has seen presidential proclamations promoting the observance of Native American Heritage Month. These proclamations encourage federal, state, and local governments, as well as organizations and individuals to celebrate with appropriate programs and activities.

The month serves as a time to reflect on the history, culture, and contributions of Native Americans, including their struggles and achievements.

