



Santa Fe County Proclamation

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, AS “NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH”

Introduced by: Commissioner Anna Hansen

WHEREAS, in 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 “National American Indian Heritage Month” to recognize the achievements and contributions of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, similar proclamations, under various names, including “Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month” have been issued every year since 1994; and

WHEREAS, in October of 2021, the United States Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland signed the Not Invisible Act of 2019 into law to address the disproportionate numbers of missing and murdered Indigenous peoples. The Not Invisible Act Commission is a cross jurisdictional advisory committee composed of law enforcement, Tribal leaders, federal partners, service providers, family members of missing and murdered individuals, and most importantly – survivors; and

WHEREAS, in November of 2021, President Biden adopted a proclamation declaring the month of November as Native American Heritage Month in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the United States Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced plans to investigate “the troubled legacy” of past boarding schools run by the government and religious organizations to assimilate Native children to white culture across the U. S. The review titled, the “Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative”, will create a comprehensive report on schools, including identifying “cemeteries and potential burial sites” where Native children may have been buried. The initiative “will serve as an investigation about the loss of human life and the lasting consequences of residential Indian boarding schools;” and

WHEREAS, Preston McBride, a Dartmouth College scholar documented at least 1,000 deaths at just four of the five hundred Indian boarding schools that existed in the United States, including the non-boarding schools on Indian reservations; and

WHEREAS, as of October 11, 2021, the Federal Bureau of Investigators listed 192 missing and/or murdered Indigenous peoples in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans serve in the military at a higher rate than any demographic, and tribal languages of Hochunk, Eastern Band Cherokee, and Choctaw created code utilized during World War I and the languages of the Navajo, Comanche, Chippewa, Oneida, and Meskwaki were utilized for code during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County (the County) shares within its boundaries, seven sovereign Pueblo nations and recognizes that Native Americans inhabited the lands known as the Americas since long before they became known as the Americas; and

WHEREAS, Native American people specific to this area have inhabited this land for centuries, under their own governance while simultaneously under the countries of Spain, Mexico, and now the United States; and



WHEREAS, Native American people's cultures, languages, and traditions persist despite multiple means to annihilate them; and

WHEREAS, local Pueblo nations contribute to the economy and workforce, providing economic stability and employment for local residents; and

WHEREAS, in negotiating aspects of the Aamodt Settlement Agreement, local Pueblo nations secured water resources for surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, farming practices of several New Mexico tribes assist us with preserving our seeds and water resources, and we continue to seek their advice for how we sustain and remediate our natural environment; and

WHEREAS, sovereign Pueblo nations' vibrant heritages enrich Santa Fe County and our visitors; and

WHEREAS, together we hope to preserve and treasure the Native American people for their resiliency, traditions, and unwavering desire to instill their language and culture for future generations, and we support their efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, AS:

“NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH”

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED ON THIS 15TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.

Anna T. Hamilton, Chair
Commissioner District 4

Rudy N. Garcia, Vice-Chair
Commissioner District 3

Henry P. Roybal
Commissioner District 1

Anna Hansen
Commissioner District 2

Hank Hughes
Commissioner District 5

Gregory S. Shaffer
Santa Fe County Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jeff Young
Santa Fe County Attorney

ATTESTATION:

Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk

