

Proclamation

Whereas, November is nationally recognized as Native American Heritage Month which honors and celebrates the diverse and vibrant cultures, histories, traditions, and contributions of Native and Indigenous people, across American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and American Samoan communities, uplifting the voices of tribes across the nation; and

Whereas, President Joe Biden, in his 2023 Proclamation on Native American Heritage Month, stated, “Since time immemorial, Native communities have passed down rich cultures, knowledge, traditions, and ways of life. But throughout our history, Native peoples’ cultures, identities, and governments were not always seen as a part of this Nation . . . and Native people were pressured to assimilate, banned from practicing their traditions and sacred ceremonies, and forced from their homes and ancestral homelands. This violence and devastation cost countless lives, tore families apart, and caused lasting damage to Tribal communities and institutions.” (Yet) Despite centuries of violence and oppression, Native peoples remain resilient and proud. Today, Native Americans are essential to the fabric of the United States. They serve in the United States Armed Forces at higher rates than any other ethnic group. They continue to steward so many of our great lands. Their contributions to science, humanities, arts, public service, and more have brought prosperity for all of us. Their diverse cultures and communities continue to thrive and lead us forward; and

Whereas, today, 380 people living in the City of Alameda identify as Native American and Alaska Native, according to the United States Census Bureau, and these communities have made significant contributions to the growth and progress of the City of Alameda through their rich traditions, art, language, environmental stewardship, and more; and

Whereas, the City of Alameda also recognizes California Native American Day, celebrated on September 22, and Indigenous Peoples’ Day, celebrated on October 9; and

Whereas, as President Joe Biden proclaimed, “This month, as we celebrate Native American history and culture, we are reminded that with hard work and commitment to our founding ideals, we can address the wrongs of our past and become a more perfect Union — one that ensures liberty, justice, dignity, and equality for all.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that I, Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor of the City of Alameda, do hereby proclaim November 2023 to be

Native American Heritage Month

in the City of Alameda, and urge Alamedans to learn more about the Tribal land we’re living on, where members of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe first lived here more than 3,000 years ago, and to learn more about the Native American people who helped shape our country, state, and community, by reading books that are written and/or illustrated by Native Americans, many of which you can find at the Alameda Free Library.



Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Mayor

