

PROCLAMATION

On this Native American Day, we pause to honor and appreciate the first Californians, who have shaped so much of our past, present and future. This year, as our state grapples with historic concurrent disasters and a national reckoning on social justice and inequity, we are grateful for the leadership of California Native American communities. They embody the values of diversity and resilience that have come to define California as a whole.

Amid the most recent crises of COVID-19 and wildfire, tribes have engaged all available resources to support not just their communities, but all Californians. They have sheltered first responders and evacuees, opened their doors to those who relied on power for life-sustaining health equipment, sent mutual aid teams to fight fires and provided meals and donations to those impacted by the pandemic. They are helping us rethink our forest management for the future, sharing their traditions of cultural burns informed by traditional ecological knowledges.

Through protest, art and persistent advocacy, California Native Americans have compelled a reexamination of our state's history and identity. This leadership has challenged us and made us a better California. Since Native American Day last year, the state has made demonstrable progress to heed this call, reckon with our past, make space for healing and promote equity. Following our apology to California Native Americans for the exploitation and violence our predecessors inflicted upon them, we created a Truth and Healing Council, which is set to embark on the journey of addressing our past and moving forward together. We have also made important strides in the spirit of reparations to expand tribal stewardship of ancestral lands and natural and cultural resources, promote visibility of the rich diversity of Native cultures, teach our youth the true history of California and expedite the return of Native ancestors to their people. These efforts are just the beginning of a journey to make real our promise of a California for all.

In this time when we are facing unprecedented challenges and looking to build a more resilient and inclusive future, we have much to learn from California Native American communities. Accordingly, I encourage all Californians to spend time on this Native American Day learning about the histories, traditions and contributions of the diverse tribal communities throughout the state.

NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim September 25, 2020, as "Native American Day."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 25th day of September 2020.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State