



PROCLAMATION

11/03/2006



November 2006, as “Native American Heritage Month”

PROCLAMATION
by the

Governor of the State of California

Since time immemorial, Native Americans have figured prominently in the history of our land and contributed much to California’s world-renowned diversity. Our state is home to hundreds of thousands of Native Americans, with sixty-nine indigenous tribal groups distinct to California alone. Each of these groups has languages and traditions that have sustained their cultures for thousands of years. Over time, tribal elders have shared with younger generations the responsibility and solemn dignity associated with preserving the legacy of our state’s very first inhabitants.

To that end, California’s government recently has worked to generate legislation that preserves this legacy. Lawmakers passed legislation and I signed into law a measure that protects sacred Native American cultural sites and ensures that information regarding those sites remain confidential. Additionally, state law was strengthened to prevent the inadvertent discovery of Native American human remains. To ensure that California was compliant with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, legislative efforts were made to bolster and facilitate protections afforded to Native American children, families and tribes.

While there is still work to be done, California will continue striving to improve intra-government relations between tribal, state and local governments. Our state remains committed to protecting the culture and welfare of California’s Native Americans. This month, I encourage all residents to recognize and celebrate the rich heritage of Native Americans and their historical contributions to California and the entire nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim November 2006, as “Native American Heritage Month.”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have here unto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 3rd day of November 2006.