

# 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**, Native American history is American history and by recognizing that there are 574 tribes in the US, we can build a future that is equitable and inclusive celebrating living Native cultures and traditions; and

**WHEREAS**, National American Indian Heritage month provides an opportunity to educate our community about Indigenous tribes and raise awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced historically and highlight the ways native peoples have endured and overcome these challenges; 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

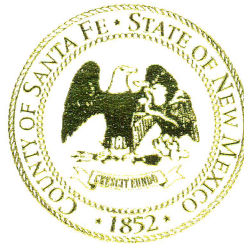
**WHEREAS**, in November of 2021, President Biden adopted a proclamation declaring the month of November as Native American Heritage Month in the United States; and

**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, eight sovereign Pueblo nations: San Felipe, Santo Domingo, Cochiti, Tesuque, Pojoaque, Nambe, San Ildefonso, and Santa Clara Pueblos; and

**WHEREAS**, the County 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**, the County recognizes that the primary languages of the Pueblos within its boundaries include Keres and Tewa, which continue to be spoken and taught; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the County and neighboring tribes finalized the Aamodt Water Rights Settlement (2017-2019), which eventually produced the Nambe-Tesuque-Pojoaque-San Ildefonso-road settlement agreements and the building of the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System; and

**WHEREAS**, the County and tribal councils continue to partner on various intergovernmental matters including transportation, broadband, public safety, protection of the Caja del Rio, and legacy waste cleanup at Los Alamos National Labs; 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

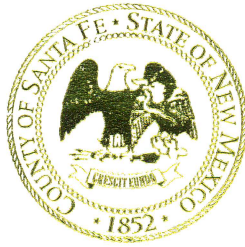
**WHEREAS**, sovereign Pueblo nations' vibrant heritages, technology, science, philosophy, art, and deep cultural contributions considerably shape the character of Santa Fe County; and

**WHEREAS**, the County encourages residents, public institutions, and local organizations to pay respect to Native American communities and indigenous neighbors and create an intentional relationship of reconciliation, truth-telling, and co-existence; 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 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.**

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Anna C. Hansen, Chair  
Commissioner District 2

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Hank Hughes, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner District 5

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Justin Greene  
Commissioner District 1

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Camilla Bustamante  
Commissioner District 3

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Anna T. Hamilton  
Commissioner District 4

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Gregory S. Shaffer  
Santa Fe County Manager

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

**ATTESTATION:**

*Jeff Young for*

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Jeff Young  
Santa Fe County Attorney

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Katharine E. Clark  
Santa Fe County Clerk