



Soboba Tribal Family Services

November Newsletter National American Indian Heritage Month



Native American Heritage Month

What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S. has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

One of the very proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the "First Americans" and for three years they adopted such a day. In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kans., formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day. It directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day.

Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state seeking approval for a day to honor Indians. On December 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the governor of New York. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September. In Illinois, for example, legislators enacted such a day in 1919. Presently, several states have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day, but it continues to be a day we observe without any recognition as a national legal holiday.

In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including "Native American Heritage Month" and "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month") have been issued each year since 1994.

*Information courtesy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs,
U.S. Department of the Interior*

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Mon - Fri 8am to 4:30 pm
(951) 487-0283

Visit us on the web at www.soboboa-nsn.gov and select "Family Services" in the "Departments" tab for our Newsletters, upcoming events/trainings, resources and referrals and information on the Indian Child Welfare Act.

**24 - Hour Child Abuse Hotline
for Riverside County
(800) 442-4918 or (800) 442-4453**



Thanksgiving

L A U G H T E R L J
L D S W Z I I E J E
A K K M P I A B X S
B I G R A V Y M P G
T U R K E Y I E U T
O C J S C B W V M I
O S E O T A T O P D
F M R J T H A N K S
P N D G I H Q H I Q
I B Q D P D Z I N G

WORDS

Corn
Cranberries
Football
Gravy
Laughter
Leaves
November
Pie
Potatoes
Pumpkin
Thanks
Togetherness
Turkey
Yams

Thank you to Carrie Garcia and Beyaja Notah of the Cultural Resource Center for the articles included in this month's Newsletter.



Crisis Hotline (951) 791-3300

Serving Hemet, Temecula, Perris, Sun City, San Jacinto, Murrieta,
Lake Elsinore

Alternatives to Domestic Violence 24-hour Hotline

Riverside City and out of County: (951) 683-0829
Remainder of Riverside County: (800) 799-SAFE (7233)
(800) 787-3224 - TDD Line
Hemet Office: (951) 929-3079

If you are in immediate danger call 9-1-1

Ira Hamilton Hayes

Pima

US Marine Corps - WWII

January 12, 1923 – January 24, 1955



Ira Hamilton Hayes was born in Sacaton, Arizona on January 12, 1923, which is located within the boundaries of the Gila River Indian Reservation in south central Arizona.

Ira Hayes was a Pima Indian who enlisted in the United States Marine Corps early in World War II. Hayes fought in the Bougainville and Iwo Jima campaigns in the Pacific Theatre of Operations. He gained fame in the Pacific campaign when he, along with four fellow Marines and one Sailor, raised the US flag over Iwo Jima while the battle still raged for that island fortress. The act of raising the flag was captured by AP photographer Joe Rosenthal and became the image on the biggest selling American Postage stamp of all time. Hayes became a national hero as a result of Rosenthal's flag raising photograph.

The list of Corporal Ira Hayes decorations and medals includes the Commendation Ribbon with "V" combat device, Presidential Unit Citation with one star for Iwo Jima, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with four stars, American Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

Following the war and unable to cope with his new-found fame, Ira Hayes turned to alcohol. Unable to keep a steady job, he was working as a cotton-picker on his reservation in Arizona when he was found dead from alcohol and exposure on January 24, 1955.

Ira Hayes is buried in Section 34, grave 479A at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.



Veteran's Day - Lori Piestewa, Hopi

In 2003 Lori Piestewa became the first Native American Woman in history to die in combat while serving with the U.S. military and the first woman in the U.S. armed forces killed in the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Piestewa was born in Tuba City, Arizona, to Terry Piestewa and Priscilla "Percy" Baca. Her father is a full-blooded Hopi Indian and her mother is a Mexican-American. The couple first met in 1964 and married in November 1968.

The Piestewa family had a long military tradition; her paternal grandfather served in the U.S. Army in the European Theatre of World War II, and her father Terry Piestewa was drafted in the U.S. Army in September 1965 and served a tour of duty in the Vietnam War before he returned home in March 1967.

Piestewa was a member of the US Army's 507th Maintenance Company, a support unit of maintenance and repair personnel. Her company was traveling in a convoy through the desert and was meant to bypass Nasiriyah, in southern Iraq, during the opening days of the war; but the convoy got lost and ran into an ambush in Nasiriyah on March 23, 2003.

As Piestewa came under "a torrent of fire" (in the words of an Army investigation of the battle), she drove at a high speed, successfully evading the enemy fire until an RPG hit the front-left wheel well of her Humvee. The force of the explosion sent her vehicle into the rear of a disabled tractor-trailer. Piestewa and her companions all survived the crash with injuries, while three other soldiers in the Humvee died. They were taken prisoner along with four others. Piestewa died soon afterwards due to her wounds.

Piestewa was awarded the Purple Heart and Prisoner of War Medal. The US Army posthumously promoted her from Private First Class to Specialist. In addition, many entities have honored her memory with memorials.

Arizona's state government renamed Squaw Peak in the Phoenix Mountains near Phoenix as Piestewa Peak and this was codified by the US Board on Geographic Names on April 10, 2008; the freeway that passes near this mountain was also renamed in her honor.

Piestewa has been memorialized across the country and even was commemorated with a plaque and ceremony at Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial in La Jolla, California.

-source Wikipedia

