



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

PROCLAMATION

Throughout California, Native Americans play incredibly important roles in our state's culture and success. As the first people to inhabit this land, they enjoyed the beauty and resources of California long before the arrival of European explorers in the 1500's. Their customs and languages are invaluable parts of our state's history, which is why I am honored to observe Native American Heritage Month.

California is home to sixty-nine indigenous tribal groups, with a total population exceeding 300,000. Each of these men, women and children bears an awesome legacy that continues to influence California today. Whether through their vocations or through their commitment to their traditions, Native Americans contribute great strength to our state and a wonderful richness to our diverse population.

While tribes and tribal elders do an extraordinary job in upholding their customs, California is also working hard to ensure that Native Americans retain their centuries-old traditions. Just last month, I signed a bill that made it legal for Native Americans with verifiable tribal membership to possess and collect feathers, skins, carcasses and other parts of non-game animals, which was not legal prior to this new law. Now, these items can be used for ceremonial and spiritual purposes important to maintaining the unique identity and culture of each tribe.

I am honored to join all Californians in celebrating Native American heritage during this month, and I express my gratitude to all those who work hard to promote and preserve this heritage for generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim November 2007, as "Native American Heritage Month."



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 1st day of November 2007.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Arnold Schwarzenegger".

Arnold Schwarzenegger
GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA