



PROCLAMATION

Native American Heritage Month 2025

WHEREAS, Native American Heritage Month is observed each November as a time to celebrate the histories, cultures, languages, and traditions of Native American and Alaska Native peoples, and to ensure their stories and contributions continue to be honored and passed on to future generations; and

WHEREAS, the area now known as Joliet Township lies on the traditional and ancestral homelands of Native Nations, including the Council of Three Fires, which consisted of the Bodwéwadmí (Potawatomi), Ojibwe, and Odawa; members of the Illinois or Illiniwek Confederation, such as the Kaskaskia and Peoria; and other tribes that inhabited the broader Illinois region, including the Očhéthi Šakówiŋ (Sioux), Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), and Myaamia (Miami), all of whom have cared for and stewarded these lands across generations; and

WHEREAS, despite centuries of violence, forced removal, assimilation policies, and systemic inequities, Native peoples have remained resilient, preserving their cultural practices, protecting sacred traditions, and continuing to lead efforts for justice and sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans have played and continue to play a vital role in the history and culture of the United States, serving in the Armed Forces at higher rates than any other group, advancing science, arts, public service, education, environmental stewardship, and contributing to the strength and richness of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, important individuals honored during Native American Heritage Month include historical leaders such as Chief Joseph and Sitting Bull; modern activists like Winona LaDuke and Deborah Parker; pioneering scientists and engineers such as Mary G. Ross and John Herrington; artists including Wes Studi and Marie Watt; and political leaders like Deb Haaland and Sharice Davids. These figures represent diverse contributions across leadership, activism, STEM, arts, and government, highlighting Native American history, achievements, and ongoing cultural significance; and

WHEREAS, Joliet Township Government affirms its responsibility to honor the sovereignty, resilience, and ongoing contributions of Native peoples, and to provide programs and services that recognize and respect the diverse communities that shape our shared history;

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED that the Board of Joliet Township Government hereby proclaims November 2025 as Native American Heritage Month in Joliet Township, and encourages all residents to learn about, reflect upon, and celebrate the heritage and ongoing contributions of Native peoples.

ADOPTED this 14th day of October 2025.


Cesar Guerrero, Township Supervisor

ATTEST:


Kendra Landfair, Township Clerk