

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: **OCT 26 2016**

From: Acting Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration (006)

Subj: 2016 National Native American Heritage Month (VAIQ 7739794)

To: Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Other Key Officials

1. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proudly joins the Nation in commemorating National Native American Heritage Month during the month of November. This year's theme is "Serving Our Nations."

2. The month of November is an opportunity to learn about the diverse American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) cultures and traditions. It's also a time to reflect on the important contributions they have made throughout our Nation's history. Some of these contributions can be found in medicine, literature, language, music, and agriculture, and the arts.

3. AIANs serve in the United States Armed Forces with great honor and distinction, defending and sacrificing their lives for the security of our Nation. VA commends those courageous servicemen, women, and Veterans, including employees Department-wide, for their continued commitment and dedication in service to our Nation's Veterans, their families, and survivors.

4. VA Central Office will commemorate National Native American Heritage Month on Thursday, November 17, 2016, in the G.V. "Sonny Montgomery Veterans Conference Center, Room 230, at noon. All employees, including managers and supervisors, are encouraged to attend and participate in activities that recognize the many contributions AIANs have made.

5. For more information on VA's AIAN Employment Program, or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact Aurelia Waters, Equal Employment Specialist, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, at (202) 461-4124, or Aurelia.Waters@va.gov.



Meghan Flanz