

State of Maine



WHEREAS, on June 21, 1775, soon after the Battle of Bunker Hill in the early stages of the American Revolution, Penobscot Chief Joseph Orono met with General George Washington at Watertown and agreed that his tribe's warriors, as well as others in the Wabanaki Confederacy, would join forces with the Continental Army to fight a common enemy in the struggle for freedom; and

WHEREAS, Maine tribal members have continued to serve in the armed forces in every war since; and

WHEREAS, members of more than 30 tribes served as code talkers in World War I and World War II, Maine tribes among them; and

WHEREAS, more than 44,000 American Indians, out of a total Native American population of 350,000, served with distinction between 1941 and 1945, including at least 156 Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Indians, as well as Maliseet and Micmac Indians living in Maine; and

WHEREAS, Native American men and women on the home front were also an integral part of the WWII war effort, with more than 40,000 leaving their reservations to work in ordnance depots, factories and other war industries; and

WHEREAS, American Indians invested more than \$50 million in war bonds and contributed to the Red Cross and the Army and Navy Relief societies; and

WHEREAS, during WWI, 14 Native American women served in the Army Nurse Corps, and nearly 800 Native American women served with units such as the Army Corps, the Army Nurse Corps, and the WAVES throughout the duration of WWII; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2000 Census, 15 percent of Maine's Native American population were serving on active duty or veterans; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Department of Veterans Affairs reported 831 Native American veterans living in Maine, a number that continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, today 11.5 percent of living Native American veterans are female, compared to 8 percent of other ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Sec. 1 MRSA § 150-C, the State of Maine and its citizens observe June 21st as Native American Veterans Day in remembrance of the courage and dedicated service of Native American members of the United States Armed Forces;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the great state of Maine, do hereby proclaim June 21st, 2020 as **Native American Veterans Day** throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance in suitable places and with appropriate ceremony and activity.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twentieth day of June Two Thousand Twenty

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
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