



County Commissioners of Charles County

PROCLAMATION 2024-86

National Native American Heritage Month

WHEREAS, the month of November of every year provides a special opportunity to celebrate the diverse histories and cultures of Native American Indians and honor Tribal sovereignty and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, Native American Heritage Month began as a day of recognition of American Indians in 1915, it is now an annual recognition, marked with educational and celebratory activities throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans have fortified our country with their traditions and values, making tremendous contributions to every aspect of our life; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans are business owners creating good jobs for American workers; teachers educating our children; first responders assisting neighbors in need; and leaders serving their communities; and

WHEREAS, the vital role that cultural heritage plays in strengthening families and communities cannot be overstated, and it is necessary to recognize and reflect upon the influence of our Nation's native people; and

WHEREAS, the Piscataway Indians, indigenous to Southern Maryland, continue to reside and thrive in areas where first contact was made with the English colonists in the early 1600's and were major contributors in agriculture, housing, fishing, and hunting in the region, which was invaluable to the first Europeans in America; and

WHEREAS, Charles County values our tribal communities, and supports their voice in our local, state, and national policy discussions and welcome them in the spirit of respect and partnership.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim November 2024 as National Native American Heritage Month in Charles County and commend this observance to the residents of Charles County.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A., Vice President
District 4

Gilbert O. Bowling, III
District 1

Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.
District 2

Amanda M. Stewart, EdD.
District 3

Attest:

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners