



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
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WASHINGTON DC 20310-0107

Office, Chief Information Officer/G-6

To the CIO/G-6 Team:

Each November, the United States celebrates Native American Heritage Month to recognize the contributions, achievements, sacrifices, and cultural and historical legacies of our country's American Indians and Alaska Natives. Since our Nation's founding in 1776, Native Americans have served valiantly, while also fighting for their rights to be an equal part of our Nation.

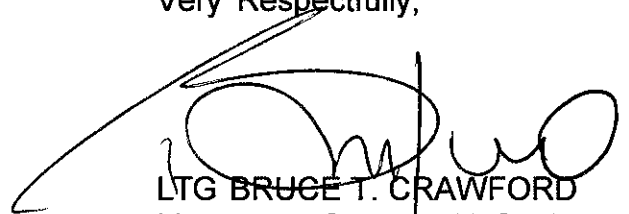
The origin of Native American Heritage Month dates back to the first "American Indian Day," which was declared in May 1916 by the governor of New York. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution of Congress proclaiming November as "National American Indian Heritage Month", thereafter commonly referred to as Native American Heritage Month.

In celebrating Native American Heritage Month, the Army recognizes that the rich heritage of Native Americans makes our Army and Nation stronger. Native Americans have served in our Nation's military and the Signal Corps with great courage and distinction. From the Native Americans of the Choctaw tribe who transmitted sensitive telephone messages during World War I, to the Commanche "code-talkers" and Navajo Signaleers who served in World War II, to those serving around the world today, Native Americans have been valued members of the Army team.

Today, more than 4,000 Soldiers of American Indian or Alaska Native descent serving with distinction across the Army. They continue a long legacy of professionalism, selfless service, dignity, and respect. Twenty-four Native American have earned the Medal of Honor for their courage and devotion.

Celebrating its diverse cultures is one of the traditions that makes our country strong. Please join Dianne and me in in honoring the proud heritage of American Indians and Alaska Natives within CIO/G-6 and Army-wide.

Very Respectfully,



LTG BRUCE T. CRAWFORD
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Chief Information Officer/G-6