November is National American Indian Heritage Month. It is a time to reflect on the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of American Indians and Alaskan Natives, the first people of the United States.

American Indians and Native Alaskans are technically U.S. citizens first who have the additional option of becoming citizens of their tribe or village as enrolled tribal members.

Sovereignty is the right of a nation or group of people to be self-governing and it is the most fundamental concept that defines the relationship between the government of the United States and governments of American Indian/Alaskan Native tribes.

Today there are 573 federally recognized tribes. For a list of Federally Recognized Tribes scan the QR code located on the bottom.

American Indians and Alaskan Natives have served our nation valiantly and with distinction in times of peace and war for over 200 years. They serve at a high rate, with nearly 50 percent of all American Indians and Alaskan Natives in the military serving in the U.S. Navy. The Navy also has the highest concentration of American Indian female Service members when compared to other ethnic groups.