

2023 Department of Defense National American Indian Heritage Month (NAIHM) Poster

Poster Description: The 2023 Department of Defense's (DoD) National American Indian Heritage Month poster depicts America's landscape interspersed with symbols depicting American Indian and Alaskan Native achievements and contributions. The poster is also an ode to the "Skywalkers." Iroquois ironworkers, especially the Mohawks, are legendary for their dizzying work in erecting skyscrapers and steel bridges. Mohawk men have walked and worked on nearly all of New York City's towering buildings, including the Empire State Building, the Chrysler Building, and Rockefeller Center. In Pittsburgh, they worked on the U.S. Steel Building, the Civic Arena, and the Fort Pitt Bridge, among other structures.

The top third of the poster depicts clouds stretching across a light purple sky. The black silhouette of an eagle is centered and soaring upwards.

In the distance, white capped mountains depict the far reaches of Alaska, the Cascades, and the Pacific Northwest. At the base of the mountain peaks are rose colored and brown foothills which transition into the Southwest's larger sandstone desert mountains. Situated in front of the mountains is a city with multileveled buildings in the colors of grey, white, blue, tan, and dark grey. The buildings represent the sectors of business, medicine, academia, and government. The city rests behind smaller rolling foothills in green. Before the foothills are colored stripes in different shades of green, yellow, and tan depicting the crops and rolling farmlands of the Midwest where many agricultural techniques were learned from Native Americans.

At the poster's middle and closer to the viewer is a dark green band of evergreen trees representing the East Coast's Smoky and Appalachian Mountains. Situated in the center is a black, steel bridge which lays before the trees. The bridge is the Fort Pitt Bridge in Pittsburgh, built with the help of American Indian steelworkers.

At the poster's middle left is a NASA space shuttle entailing two white solid rocket boosters, an orange external fuel tank, and the white space orbiter, representing American Indian astronauts and the many Native Americans who greatly contributed to NASA's mission. At the center is an image of the U.S. Capital representing those who have achieved political office and positions of governance. To the right is an image of the Empire State building to represent the Iroquois who were heavily recruited to build tall skyscrapers and other structures in Manhattan as well as in many other areas in America.

The bottom third of the poster consists of a dark green band. Situated and centered upon the band is the observance title in cream-colored capitalized text outlined in light brown. It reads, NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH. Centered beneath the observance title is the observance month in smaller, cream colored, stylized text which reads, *November*.

Beneath the observance month is the observance theme in capitalized medium brown-colored text which reads, TRIBAL NATIONS SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS. Centered below the theme is smaller, capitalized cream-colored text which reads, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, THERE IS A STRONG REPRESENTATION OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVES AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, AND LEADING AGENCIES IN...FINANCE, SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND EDUCATION.

At the bottom left corner are the seals for the DoD and the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). At the bottom right corner is a white symbol depicting a microphone. To the right of the microphone is a quick response code (QRC) which, when scanned with a mobile device, will open an audio narration with this poster description. To the right of the first QRC is a second QRC which directs an individual to DEOMI's website, www.defenseculture.mil.