



CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Native American Heritage Month is observed by acknowledging the contributions of Native Americans, who have inhabited the region for a millennium and have contributed significantly to the growth, prosperity, and identity of our country, from before its inception to the present day; and

WHEREAS, Native American Week began in 1976, and recognition was expanded by Congress and approved by President George Bush in August 1990, designating the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, California is home to 109 federally recognized Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, Costa Mesa's first inhabitants were native American Indians of the Tongva Tribe, who settled on the mesa near the banks of the Santa Ana River in what today is now the Diego Sepulveda Adobe; and

WHEREAS, Costa Mesa honors and lifts up the enduring perseverance, diverse cultures, and excellence of all the people who first called this City, State, and nation home; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans have moving stories of tragedy, triumph, and traditions that need to be shared with future generations; and

WHEREAS, the City is aware of the historical importance of local and national tribes and the way Native Americans continue to enrich our heritage and add to all aspects of our society by sharing their customs and traditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John B. Stephens, Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa, do hereby proclaim November 2023 as **Native American Heritage Month** and encourage all residents to celebrate the rich cultures of indigenous people, honor their sacrifices, acknowledge the unique challenges Native Americans face, historically and present, and recognize their continued significance in our community.

DATED *this 7th day of November 2023.*

John B. Stephens, *Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa*