



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001**

VIRGIN ISLANDS INDIGENOUS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the annual observances of National American Indian Heritage Month and National Native American Heritage Month in the United States of America, honor, acknowledge and respectfully celebrate the contributions of people of Indigenous Native American ancestry, heritage and culture. It is only fitting that the Virgin Islands of the United States of America, respectfully honor the civilization narratives, traditions, genealogical linkages, and rich culture being restored by descendants of Native Amerindian people indigenous to the Caribbean Americas and the wider community throughout the Territory; and

WHEREAS, in the United States Virgin Islands, the month of November is an occasion for Virgin Islanders of Indigenous Caribbean Descent to reaffirm their patriotic ties to the original people of the Caribbean and the United States of America, their cultural ties with Indigenous people, their traditions and heritage with their kith and kin throughout the lands of the Caribbean, Americas and the world. All residents of the diverse ethnic and cultural communities in the Territory are invited to acknowledge and celebrate the vital individual, community, and institutional contributions of Indigenous Caribbean Amerindians and all Indigenous people of the world to the economic, political, cultural, scientific, educational, spiritual, and religious life of the Territory; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Congress issued a Joint Resolution (Public Law 101-343) which designated the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month. This commemorative month aims to provide a platform for indigenous native people of the United States of America and its Territories to share their culture, traditions, music, crafts, dance, and ways and concepts of life. This gives indigenous native people the opportunity to express to their community and representatives, their concerns and solutions for building bridges of understanding and friendship in their local area; and

WHEREAS, the VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources State Historic Preservation Office, the VI National Park Service of St. Thomas and St. John, the National Park Service of St. Croix—especially within its Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Reserve that is home to significant heritage sites of early human settlements in St. Croix and the Caribbean Americas continue to support Indigenous Native Amerindian heritage preservation efforts. Guainia Taino Tribe of the Virgin Islands, and Opi'a Taino International, Inc., spearheaded respectful Indigenous Amerindian historic preservation, educational research, and heritage restoration. As well as, established alliances, ancestral support, respectful collaborations, and cooperative agreements with the United Confederation of Taino People, the Guainia Taino Tribe of Boriken, the Guainia Taino Tribe of the Virgin Islands (British), and other organizations, nations and families of the Virgin Islands, wider Caribbean, the Americas and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby **proclaim the month of November** as “*Virgin Islands Indigenous Native American Heritage Month*” throughout the United States Virgin Islands. I call upon all natives, residents, and visitors of the Territory to respectfully extend this to our family in the wider Caribbean and Americas to support the organizational, individual, and other multicultural events scheduled in honor of these historic, culturally enriching, and appropriate regional, national, and international occasions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 28th day of October, A. D. 2022.


Albert Bryan, Jr.
Governor

Attest:


Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor

