



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 (VIINAHM) in the United States of America, honors, acknowledges and respectfully celebrates 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 throughout the month of November the Guainia Taino Tribe invites all 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, the 101st Congress Public Law 101-343 in 1990 designated the month of November annually as National American Indian Heritage Month. This commemorative

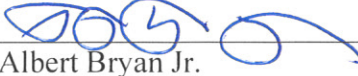
month aims to provide a platform for indigenous native people of the United States of America and its Territories to share their culture, traditions, music, crafts, dance, and ways and concepts of life. This gives indigenous native people the opportunity to express to their community, both city, county and state officials, their concerns and solutions for building bridges of understanding and friendship in their local area. This proclamation compliments cultural heritage programs of the 2018 Transfer Centennial observances that support the research, educational exhibitions and sustainable development initiatives for inclusion of an international registry for people of Indigenous Native Amerindian Heritage and ancestry of the Territory; and

WHEREAS, may our Virgin Islands' community join the Guainia Taino Tribe in reflecting and remembering the words in President Obama's 2013 Proclamation: During Native American Heritage Month, we honor their vibrant cultures and strengthen the government to government relationship between the United States and each tribal nation. As we observe this month, we must not ignore the painful history Native Americans have endured. May the legacy and cultural traditions of Indigenous Native Amerindian people of our VI and Caribbean community be respected; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Native Amerindian heritage preservation efforts continue to be protectively supported by 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. Respectful Indigenous Amerindian historic preservation, educational research and heritage restoration have been spearheaded by Opi'a Taino International, the Guainia Taino Tribe of the Virgin Islands and the United Confederation of Taino People-inclusive yet not limited to established alliances, ancestral support, respectful collaborations and cooperative agreements with Kalinago (Carib), Boriken Taino, 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*” (VIINAHM)** 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.

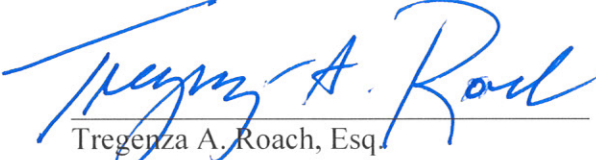
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 27th day of October, A. D. 2025.



Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor



Attest:



Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor