



Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska

3345 B Thrasher Rd.

White Cloud, Kansas 66094

Phone: (785) 595-3258

Fax: (785) 595-6610

A Note from Chairman Rhodd for National Native American Heritage Month

Do you find yourself wondering what it means to celebrate National Native American Heritage Month? To me, it means we, as Native Americans, should be proud of who we are and acknowledge the sacrifices our ancestors have endured. As a result of the resilience of many strong individuals, Tribes, nations, bands, and Indigenous communities, we have and will continue to survive.

Time after time, promises were broken. Our lands were taken away, and our ancestors were forced to reservations or Indian Territories. Each time the land was taken from our ancestors, their identity was taken as well. It is essential to acknowledge the connection Indigenous people have with these lands as the original stewards. We continue demonstrating our resilience and commitment to these lands as we strive to regenerate our soils and communities.

Beyond recognizing and acknowledging these truths, National Native American Heritage Month can be celebrated by supporting tribally-owned businesses. Tribally-owned businesses provide direct support to Native nations through their revenues, serving many areas of social good. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen tremendous support for the Ioway Bee Farm. This has assisted us with incredible growth, leading to increased workforce development opportunities for our Tribal members, members of other Tribes, and local community members. This month, I ask you to learn about Native nations and find ways to support them.

We, as Native Americans, can honor and celebrate our rich cultures, traditions, artwork, history, and contributions to our communities by remembering our ancestors and supporting our future generations. Each day, I strive to advance Tribal sovereignty by promoting Tribal self-determination and upholding the United States' trust and treaty responsibilities. As Chairman for the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, I am proud of our history, our ancestors, and our resilience, which brings us to where we are today and provides the vision for where we will be in the future.

Hanwe Je'e Pike - Today is a good day!