

## Veteran and Military Families Month

Created in 1996 by the Armed Services YMCA, Veterans and Military Families Month is a time to recognize and celebrate the sacrifices American armed forces make both while deployed and home, including those made by their families and loved ones.

Active military members contend with separation from their families and families may need to move regularly and deal with new living situations and communities.

Veterans Day is on November 11 and was established in 1919 by President Wilson as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. This day was filled with parades, public gatherings, and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00a.m. It was signed into law as a federal holiday in 1968, under the Uniform Holiday Bill and has since been a day to celebrate life, love, and sacrifice.

There are many ways to say thanks to people who are serving and have served directly and indirectly in the military. Some ways to get involved include:

### •Write a thank you note

A Million Thanks is a nonprofit that has supported active military and their families since 2004. People can sign up to send letters to active, reserve, and veteran military members.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

### •Donate to veterans' charities

- o Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
- o Wounded Warrior Project
- o Freedom Service Dogs of America

Click [here](#) to see retailers and restaurants offering military discounts in November.



## Native American Heritage Month

Native American Heritage Month began as a day of recognition in 1915 and grew into a month-long celebration in 1990.

This is a time to celebrate Indigenous Americans across the United States. Over the last few years, many Americans have started to acknowledge the impact colonialization had on Native Americans in the U.S. From supporting the decolonization of Thanksgiving to learning about land acknowledgements there are many ways people can learn about Native Americans and honor the sacrifices they have been forced to make.

Since 1970, Indigenous people and allies have honored Native Americans who suffered and died because of colonization on the National Day of Mourning. This day is always on the fourth Thursday of every November and has replaced Thanksgiving for many as a way to pay homage for the price paid to live in the United States. Organized yearly by the United American Indians of New England (UAINF) this year's event will be both in-person and virtual on November 24. The event will be live-streamed from Plymouth, Massachusetts at noon.

In recent years, decolonization efforts have spread throughout the US. Decolonize means to change something in a way that considers the cultural beliefs behind it.

Thanksgiving decolonization advocates seek to teach how the history of the first Thanksgiving ignores the violence between Native Americans and European colonist and how this harmful narrative disregards how colonialism has effected Native American communities.

## NATIONAL



## ADOPTION DAY

On November 18, 2000, a coalition of national partners (the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Alliance for Children's Rights and Children's Action Network and the Freddie Mac Foundation) encouraged nine cities to open their courts on or around the Saturday before Thanksgiving to finalize and celebrate adoptions from foster care.

Since the inception, more than 400 communities across the country have hosted National Adoption Day events recognizing more than 75,000 children moving from foster care to a permanent family.

Hoyleton has participated in National Adoption for the past 3 years and has found forever homes for 88 children during this time to mark the event.

44 male and 44 female  
African American – 34  
Bi-racial – 5  
Hispanic – 1  
Native American – 1  
Caucasian – 49

Hoyleton Adoption Day is held at the Madison County Courthouse and will be on December 22 this year. *The date has been pushed to December in past years so the courthouses can accommodate due to lower caseloads at the end of the year.*

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

There are many ways to learn more about Native American heritage and honor Indigenous stories through the following publications, podcasts and films:

### Films:

- o American Indian Film Festival
- o Without a Whisper: Konnon:kwe
- o Indian Horse
- o Killers of the Flower Moon

### Books:

- o The Lakota Way
- o Not Without Our Consent
- o Heart Berries: A Memoir
- o Killers of the Flower Moon

### Podcasts

- o Indian & Cowboy
- o All My Relations
- o The Native Seed Pod