



Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

PROCLAMATION

in honor of

National Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons

WHEREAS, May is recognized nationally as National Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Awareness Month and May 5th as MMIP Awareness Day, a time to increase awareness of missing or murdered Indigenous persons, whose cases far too often go unsolved; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native people are at a disproportionate risk of experiencing violence, murder, or going missing and make up a significant portion of the missing and murdered cases; and

WHEREAS, The MMIP crisis is prevalent across the United States, with Indigenous peoples being murdered at a rate 10 times the national average. According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, homicide is the leading cause of death for Native women ages 10-24 and the fifth-leading cause of death for Native women 25-34; and

WHEREAS, California has the largest population of Native Americans, more than any other state in the country and ranks 5th in the nation for uninvestigated, unresolved MMIP cases; and

WHEREAS, In California, cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women are 7 times less likely to be solved than any other demographic; and data tracking of MMIP is scarce, therefore the actual number is unknown; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Savanna's Act was signed into law aiming to improve the federal response to missing or murdered indigenous persons by increasing coordination among Federal, State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies. That same year the Not Invisible Act established a cross jurisdictional advisory committee composed of law enforcement, Tribal leaders, federal partners, service providers, family members of missing and murdered individuals, and survivors; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the California Statewide Feather Alert Program was introduced through Assembly Bill 1314 and became law by adding California Government Code Section 8594.13. A Feather Alert is a resource available to law enforcement agencies investigating the suspicious or unexplainable disappearance of an indigenous person; and

WHEREAS, in 2023 the Yurok Tribe, California's largest tribal group, hired the first MMIP Investigator assigned to assisting tribal groups and indigenous people throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, we believe it is important to remember, honor and respect those missing and murdered, provide resources to families to bring resolution to their loved ones disappearance, and try to assist in the healing process. We also must work to bring awareness to the prevention of this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors supports a diverse workplace, by providing a culture for equity and inclusion for all. We believe recognizing and honoring National Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day and proclaiming May as MMIP Awareness Month is an extension of this initiative.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that ongoing, May is National Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Month in Humboldt County to bring awareness to our community, to combat this epidemic and support paths to healing, and to end to the violence and the silence.



May 06, 2025

Michelle Bushnell, Chair