



Proclamation Honoring Native American Heritage Month

WHEREAS, the Monacan Indian Nation are known to be the indigenous stewards of present day Albemarle County; and

WHEREAS, by the 1740s, most Monacan people were pushed westward away from Albemarle by advancing colonial settlers and were instead forced to relocate in Amherst County, but the Monacans maintained connections to their ancestral landscape and visited their burial mounds in Albemarle County, with one such visit recorded by Thomas Jefferson in 1755; and

WHEREAS, the state of Virginia passed a Racial Integrity Law in 1924, prohibiting intermarriage and requiring birth certificates to assign race, with “white” or “colored” as the only option, thus disrupting the continuity of Monacan history in our region and throughout the commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Monacan people built community and maintained their traditions on Bear Mountain for centuries, ensuring the continuity of their long history within their citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Monacan Indian Nation was recognized by the state of Virginia in 1989, and finally by the federal government in 2018; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, celebrate Native American Heritage Month by honoring the Monacan Indian Nation, the indigenous stewards of this land, for their perseverance and commitment to their community in the face of centuries of systemic oppression, and for their generosity in educating us about their long and memorable history so we all know a more comprehensive history of our County.

Signed this 3rd day of November, 2021

*Ned Gallaway, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors*