

November is National Native American/ Alaska Native Heritage Month

2016 Theme: *Serving Our Nations*

“National American Indian Heritage Month” had its origins in 1986 when Congress passed Pub. L. 99-471 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week of November 23-30, 1986, as “American Indian Week.” In 1990, President George H.W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating the month of November 1990 as “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including “National Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month”) have been issued each year since 1990.

American Indian PROFILE: **LaDonna Harris**

Taken from Indian Country Today Media Network (ICTMN) publication, “The 2016 50 Faces of Indian Country”



LaDonna Harris, Comanche

The Native Rights Fighter: LaDonna Harris. She has been a steadfast advocate for Native American rights for more than four decades and is the current president of Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO). She is known as a remarkable statesman and national leader who has enriched the lives of thousands. She has also been a powerful advocate in areas of civil rights, environmental protection, the women’s movement and world peace. The Comanche citizen applies much of her energy to strengthening tribal governments, and has encouraged tribes to reweave traditional value-based methods of consensus building into their governance systems. In the 1960s, she founded Oklahomans for Indian Opportunity, and she presided over the national AIO since the 1970s. She is also responsible for founding leading Native organizations, including the National Indian Housing Council, the Council of Energy

Resource Tribes, the National Tribal Environmental Council and the National Indian Business Association. “I was so fortunate that my grandparents instilled in me Comanche values, especially that everybody has medicine and that we are all related. My work has always centered on building relationships with people who have embraced my Comanche values and helped me with my work,” Harris tells ICTMN. “Now, we are collaborating with our global family through our shared values and worldview. Together, with our Indigenous brothers and sisters we can continue to advance our rights and protect the rights of Mother Earth.”

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2016/10/21/50-faces-indian-country-2016-ii-166156?page=0%2C2>

