

N ovember is National Native American Heritage Month

2018 Theme: Sovereignty, Trust and Resilience

“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 have been issued each year since 1990.

SPOTLIGHT: Mary G. Ross, Cherokee, First Native American Woman Engineer

Mary Golda Ross (August 9, 1908 – April 29, 2008) was the first known Native American female engineer, and the first female engineer in the history of Lockheed. She was one of the 40 founding engineers of the renowned and highly secretive Skunk Works project at Lockheed Corporation. She worked at Lockheed from 1942 until her retirement in 1973, where she was best remembered for her work on aerospace design – including the Agena Rocket program – as well as numerous “design concepts for interplanetary space travel, manned and unmanned earth-orbiting flights, the earliest studies of orbiting satellites for both defense and civilian purposes.”

Ms. Ross was a member of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). The Santa Clara Valley Section of SWE offers a scholarship in her name. In 1985, Ms. Ross received the Ely S. Parker award from the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and in 1992, she was inducted into the Silicon Valley Engineering Hall of Fame.



Photo: Mary G. Ross. Photo via Google, Courtesy of Evelyn Ross McMillan

[Google Doodle Celebrates Mary G. Ross. Read here.](#)