

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Abenaki Recognition and Heritage Week marks a time to honor and celebrate the history of the Abenaki people who, long before the arrival of the first Europeans, inhabited all of Vermont and New Hampshire, parts of Western Maine, parts of southern Quebec and parts of upstate New York; and
- WHEREAS,** centuries of oral tradition have kept the history and the ancient culture of the Abenaki alive and many contemporary Abenaki families intend to continue to pass on these indigenous traditions to the younger generations; and
- WHEREAS,** unfortunately we must acknowledge the history of the Abenaki people is marred by disease and upheaval, war, the atrocity of eugenics, discrimination and injustice; and
- WHEREAS,** beginning in the early 1970s the Abenaki people sought recognition as Native American Indian tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** on May 14, 2010 Governor James H. Douglas signed into law Act No. 107 of 2010, An Act Relating to State Recognition of Native American Indian tribes in Vermont, a bill which set forth formal criteria and a process for Abenaki tribes to be recognized as Native American Indian tribes by the State; and
- WHEREAS,** in order to recognize the historic and cultural contributions of Native Americans to Vermont, to protect and strengthen their heritage and to address their needs in state policy, programs and actions the Act also established the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont is now home to four State-recognized Native American Indian tribes: the Elnu Abenaki tribe; the Nulhegan band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation; the Koasek Abenaki of the Koas; and the Missisquoi, St. Francis-Sokoki band; and
- WHEREAS,** through mutual honor and respect for the rich heritage of Vermont's Abenaki people, this week we celebrate the Abenaki and their ancestors and acknowledge and honor these members of the community, both past and present.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim May 1-5, 2019
as

ABENAKI RECOGNITION AND HERITAGE WEEK

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of
Vermont on this 1st day of May, A.D. 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney L. Wilson", is written over a horizontal line.
Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs