

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIVE AMERICAN  
VETERANS DAY**

**WHEREAS**, Native Americans have made significant contributions to numerous military conflicts since the American Revolutionary War; and

**WHEREAS**, Native Americans have served in the various branches of the United States Armed Forces with honor and bravery; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 12,000 Native Americans in the United States served to support the efforts of World War I, during World War II about 150,000 Native Americans participated in either military service or supported the war effort through agricultural or industrial jobs and during the Vietnam War approximately 42,000 Native Americans were engaged in military service with the United States Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the United States Veterans Administration report on American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans in 2020, 580 American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans reside in Maine; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, the Honorable Donald Soctomah, Representative to the Maine Legislature from the Passamaquoddy Tribe, sponsored legislation to create Native American Veterans Day, which was signed into law by Governor John E. Baldacci; and

**WHEREAS**, Maine law now recognizes June 21st as Native American Veterans Day to commemorate the actions of Native Americans from Maine that contributed to the efforts of many American conflicts and to remember those who served and risked their lives for American freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, on this day and every day, the people of the State are encouraged to make an effort to celebrate and honor American Native American Veterans past and present from the Penobscot Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Mi'kmaq Nation; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize June 21, 2023 as Native American Veterans Day and to thank our Maine Native American Veterans for their service to this country.