November – Minority History Dates

Month-long Observances

- **Native American Heritage Month** — Celebrates the cultures, histories, traditions, and contributions of Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities.

- **National American Indian Heritage Month** — Recognizes the sovereignty, diversity, and enduring impact of Indigenous peoples throughout the United States.

- **Veterans and Military Families Month** — Honors military service members and veterans from all communities, including Native American, Black, Hispanic, Latino, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and LGBTQ+ populations.

Major Dates – Indigenous & Native American History

November – Native American Heritage Month

- Honors Indigenous cultures, histories, and ongoing contributions to American society.

November 20, 1985 – Wilma Mankiller becomes Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation

- First woman elected to lead the Cherokee Nation.
- Became a nationally recognized advocate for tribal sovereignty, economic development, healthcare access, and community empowerment.
- Her leadership helped transform the Cherokee Nation and inspired Native American women to pursue leadership roles throughout Indian Country.

Native American Heritage Day (Friday after Thanksgiving)

- Celebrates Native American cultures, achievements, and contributions while promoting education about tribal nations and their histories.

Hispanic & Latino History

November 16, 1990 – Immigration Act of 1990 signed into law

- Signed by President George H.W. Bush, the Act represented the most significant revision of U.S. immigration law since 1965.

- Increased legal immigration levels and expanded opportunities for family reunification.
- Created new employment-based visa categories designed to attract skilled workers and professionals.
- Established the Diversity Visa Lottery Program, encouraging immigration from countries with historically low rates of immigration to the United States.
- Helped shape the growing diversity of modern America, contributing to the expansion of Hispanic, Latino, Asian American, and other immigrant communities during the 1990s and beyond.

Black History – Key November Events

November 2, 1983 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day signed into law

- President Ronald Reagan signed legislation establishing a federal holiday honoring Dr. King's legacy and contributions to the Civil Rights Movement.

November 4, 2008 – Barack Obama elected President

- Became the first African American elected President of the United States.
- Marked a historic milestone in American political history and representation.

November 14, 1960 – Ruby Bridges integrates William Frantz Elementary School

- At six years old, Ruby Bridges became the first Black student to attend the formerly all-white elementary school in New Orleans.
- Her courage became a lasting symbol of the struggle for educational equality and civil rights.

November 15, 1921 – Joseph Lowery born

- Future civil rights leader and co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.
- Worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and remained a prominent advocate for voting rights and social justice throughout his life.

LGBTQ+ History & Equality

November 20 – Transgender Day of Remembrance

- Honors the memory of transgender individuals lost to violence.
- Raises awareness of the challenges facing transgender communities and reaffirms the importance of dignity, safety, and equal protection for all people.

November Minority History Highlights

Taken together, these November observances and milestones reflect the strength and diversity of America's communities. Native American Heritage Month reminds us of the first peoples of this land and their enduring contributions. The courage of Ruby Bridges, the leadership honored through Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the election of President Barack Obama, the groundbreaking achievements of Wilma Mankiller, and the recognition of Transgender Day of Remembrance each represent important chapters in the ongoing pursuit of equality, representation, and justice.

As members of the Minority & Allies Caucus, we recognize these dates not only to honor the past but also to strengthen our commitment to building inclusive communities where every voice is valued. Understanding these stories helps us appreciate the progress that has been made while reminding us of the work that remains ahead. By learning from this history, we continue the work of building a more representative and equitable future for all.