

Green Economic Development on Tribal Lands September 14, 2023 I Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center

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# **Green Economic Development on Tribal Lands**



# Conference Agenda

8:00 AM

Registration at Henrico Ballroom

Breakfast Buffet in Glen Restaurant

9:00 AM

**Welcome and Prayer** 

• Jerry Fortune

Rappahannock Tribe

**Drum Song** 

Maskapow Drum Group

**Procession of Flag Bearers** 

• Native American Women Warriors and Tribes

**Procession of the Chiefs** 

9:15 AM

**Opening Remarks and Introduction of the Chiefs** 

• Chief Anne Richardson Rappahannock Tribe

9:30 AM

**Economic Development and Sovereignty** 

Jerry Pardilla

United South and Eastern Tribes

Tribal Sovereignty Is the Base for Building Sustainable Economies.

10:30 AM

Supporting Indigenous Led Economic Development and Climate Solutions on Indian Lands: Barriers and Opportunities

Melissa Ehrenreich, Facilitator
 Indigenous Conservation Council for the Chesapeake Bay

Bryan Van Stippen

National Indian Carbon Coalition

How Tribes Can Create Income Streams from Carbon Offsets and Credits on Tribal Lands

Heather Richards

The Conservation Fund

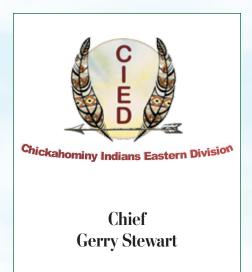
Easements and Green Economic Development

Marcie Kapsch

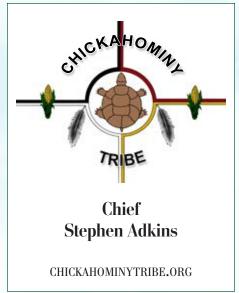
Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge

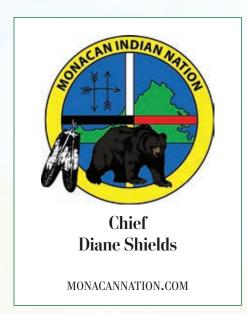
Co-Managing Easements with Tribes

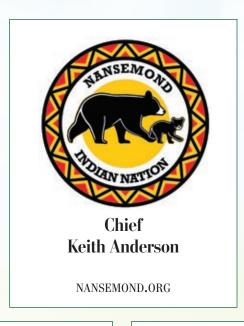
# Sovereign Nations of Virginia

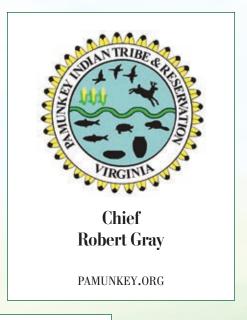


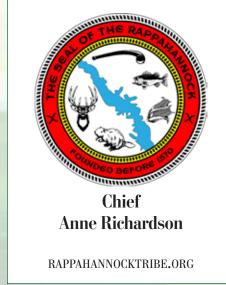
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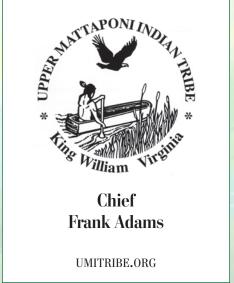












# 12:30 PM **Lunch Buffet in Glen Restaurant** 2:00 PM **Story Mapping** John Jastram United States Geological Survey Collaborating with VCU and the Pumunkey Tribe. Nina Brundle Virginia Commonwealth University The Story Map. Annie Scott United States Geological Survey Tribal Programs and Opportunities at the USGS. 2:45 PM **Tribal Tourism Post-COVID** Sherry Rupert American Indian and Alaska Native Tourism Association Cultural Tourism on Indian and Non-Indian Owned Lands. 3:30 PM Refreshment Break 3:45 PM **Land and Water Conservation Funding** Michael Spears Anthropological Research, LLC The Implications of LWCF Funding for Indigenous Communities. 4:00 PM Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Strategic Partnerships Wizipan Little Elk Garriott Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs

U.S. Department of the Interior

Benefit to Tribes of Using Their Lands for Green Economic Development and the BIA's New Office of Strategic Partnerships

4:45 PM Closing Remarks
Chief Anne Richardson
Color Guard

5:00 PM Conference Adjourns

# WEISSBERG FOUNDATION











Cultural Heritage Partners is honored to support the sovereignty of the Virginia tribes.

www.culturalheritagepartners.com

# 2023 Sovereignty Conference Planning Committee

- Chief Anne Richardson Rappahannock Tribe
- Melissa Ehrenreich Indigenous Conservation Council for the Chesapeake Bay
- Patricia Morris
  Rappahannock Tribe

# Annual Sovereignty Conference Brings Tangible Benefits to Virginia Tribes

Conceived by Chief Anne Richardson of the Rappahannock Tribe in 2021, the annual conference was first designed to educate state officials on the meaning of the term "sovereign nation" as they sought to understand how to build government to government relationships with the seven newly federally recognized tribes. The Pamunkey Tribe was recognized in 2016 and the Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Monacan, Nansemond, Rappahannock, and Upper Mattaponi tribes in 2018.

"The conference brings together resources for tribes as they stand up their tribal governments and programs. And most importantly, organizing and planning the annual conference helps us to identify common needs so that we can bring subject matter expertise to Virginia to help all tribes," says Chief Anne. She adds, "The Rappahannock Tribe has taken the lead to raise funds so that the conference is free to all participants, but it is not a fundraiser for the tribe. In fact, our Tribe funded about half of the costs of the 2021 event. Today, the small net income from the event is used to pay the conference center deposit for the next year. We are grateful for the organizations and agencies who have supported the conference."

# 2021: Building Government to Government Relationships

Five scholars, Dr. David Wilkins (University of Richmond), Dr. Sam Cook (Virginia Tech), Dr. Ed Ragan (Rappahannock Tribe historian), Dr. Jason Sellers (Mary Washington University), and Dr. Jessica Taylor (Virginia Tech) presented their research on the history of treaties with the tribes – the colony, local authorities, and the Crown. Attendees learned that some of those treaties are still active today even though they are unknown to most authorities in state and local government.

At a meeting of the seven tribal Chiefs after the conference, Kitcki Carroll (executive director, South & Eastern Tribes), Dr. Wilkins (a sovereignty expert), and Greg and Marion Werkheiser (Cultural Heritage Partners) gathered to discuss a possible Accord to present to the Commonwealth that would provide guidance on building and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships with the tribes. What resulted was a unified legislative agenda to address common issues that have been problematic over the years.

Cultural Heritage Partners, PLLC (CHP) has advocated on behalf of its Virginia Tribal Nation clients to the Northam and Youngkin administrations as well as the General Assembly on many key policy priorities. Educating Virginia policymakers about the benefits and opportunities of having federally recognized tribal governments in the Commonwealth is vital to building strong government-to-government relationships.

Together we have already achieved much:

Former Governor Ralph Northam signed Executive Order 82, which affirms the Commonwealth's obligation to consult with tribes before granting state permits for projects that may impact their cultural, historic, and environmental interests.

- The General Assembly created a commission to update Virginia law to reflect the federal recognition of Tribal Nations.
- The General Assembly amended the code to ensure that Tribal Nations are eligible for Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF) grants that can be used to protect Virginia's natural wonders.
- The General Assembly created Tribal Liaison positions in the Departments of Historic Resources and Virginia Parks.
- The General Assembly established the Virginia Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Historic Preservation Fund, which helps Tribal Nations acquire and preserve properties of historic and cultural significance to their peoples.
- The Tribal Nations hosted the first annual Virginia's Tribal Nations Legislative Reception in January 2023, which featured remarks by Secretary Kay Cole James and awards for the 2022 Tribal Champions: Delegate Paul Krizek, Senator David Marsden, Senator Jennifer McClellan, and Delegate Delores McQuinn.

The greatest challenge we have faced in the General Assembly is also the Tribal Nations' most important legislative priority: codifying Executive Order 82 (2021). In both the 2022 and 2023 Sessions, the State Senate unanimously passed the consultation bill, but legislation stalled in the House of Delegates. The Tribal Nations will continue to pursue the consultation bill, which will bring Virginia in line with other states who have federally recognized tribes within their borders.

# 2022: Indigenous Led Conservation

Kitcki Carroll spoke about what land ownership means to sovereignty. Zoe Goozner (Pew Trust) facilitated a panel discussion of climate challenges: on the east coast (Dr. Casey Thornbrugh), on the Gulf coast (Principal Chief Lora Ann Chaisson, United Houma Tribe), and in northern California (Daniel Cordalis, Navajo, for the Yurok Tribe). Joel Dunn (Chesapeake Conservancy) spoke about how partnerships with tribes can work to reacquire ancestral lands; Wizipan Little Elk Garriott (US Department of the Interior & Bureau of Indian Affairs) clarified the impact of tribes putting their land into Federal Land Trust. Marion Werkheiser (Cultural Heritage Partners) finished the day by sharing why consultation with tribes during development permitting processes is critical to honoring treaty obligations with tribes.

At a meeting of the seven tribal Chiefs after the conference, the idea of creating a new organization that would bring resources and technical expertise to the tribes related to conservation and land acquisition. The Indigenous Conservation Council for the Chesapeake Bay was approved,



and Cultural Heritage Partners offered to assist with the filing

of a new nonprofit organization. The CHP team donated more than 45 pro bono hours to draft by-laws and articles of incorporation, file for nonprofit status with the IRS, apply for incorporation with the State Corporation Commission, and prepare other legal necessities.

#### Summary of the ICC Goals:

- Establish a Chesapeake Bay watershed-wide council of federally recognized tribes;
- Fund the acquisition and conservation of land to increase land ownership by tribes and to reconnect tribal citizens to their historical and cultural landscapes;
- Facilitate resources, provide training and knowledge sharing between tribes to support land acquisition and stewardship;
- Elevate the conservation and restoration leadership of Indigenous peoples.

The ICC Board of Directors consist of the Chiefs of the seven federally recognized tribes, with elected officers including Chief Anne Richardson (Rappahannock), President, Chief Frank Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Assistant Chief Reggie Stewart (Chickahominey Indians Eastern Division), Secretary, and Assistant Chief Dave Hanneman (Nansemond). Melissa Ehrenreich was hired as the first Executive Director.

# 2023: Green Economic Development on Tribal Lands

What will this year's meeting of the Chiefs bring? We can predict even greater unity and inter-tribal collaboration because our region's tribes – among the first in contact with European settlers - are in the unique position of embarking on their experience as federally and state recognized status at the time

of the first Indigenous Secretary of the Interior (Deb Haaland) and cabinet member. The Virginia Delegation, as these tribes are now known around the country, are speaking with one voice and shared goals to serve their tribal citizens and the greater Mid-Atlantic community. Stay tuned...

# **The Virginia Tribal Education Consortium**

(VTEC) is offering financial and academic support through their Career and Technical Education Grant (CTE).

The CTE program is administering a student stipends for internships opportunities, work-based learning opportunities, college tuition as well as administering career exploration, fun camps, and student and parent support for eligible Native American students!

For more information, please email:

 Hailey Holmes, Project Director
 hailey.holmes@vtecinc.org

 Jodie Cole, Secondary Academic Coordinator
 jodie.cole@vtecinc.org

 Malina Fortune, Post-secondary Academic Coordinator
 malina.fortune@vtecinc.org



# We strive to strengthen partnerships with Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities.

The Wilderness Society and the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers are grateful to the Rappahannock Nation and Tribal Nations in Virginia for the invitation to release our new report: Tribal Access to the Land and Water Conservation Fund at this year's VA Sovereign Nations' Conference.





#### USET/USET SPF TRIBAL NATIONS AND EAST 19. Oneida Indian Nation Onyota'a'ká: 20. Aroostook Band of Micmacs Mikmaq Nation 21. Catawba Indian Nation Ye Iswah h'reh Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians 2. Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Microsuke Fribe of Indians of Fiorida Mikasuki Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Chahta Seminole Tribe of Florida Islaponathii Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana 22. Jena Band of Choctaw Indian 23. The Mohegan Tribe 6. Seneca Nation of Indians 24. Cayuga Nation Gayogoho:no' 25. Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Måseepee Wôpanâak 26. Shinnecock Indian Nation Shinnecock Onondowa'ga' Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe 9. Penobscot Indian Nation 27. Pamunkey Indian Tribe Panawahpskek 10. Passamaquoddy Tribe - Pleasant Point Pamunkey 28. Rappahannock Tribe Rappahannock 29. Chickahominy Indian Tribe Passamaquoddy Tribe - Indian Township Peskotomuhkati 12. Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians 30. Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division Chickahominy – Eastern Division 31. Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe 13. Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana Tayoroniku – Halyayihku 14. Poarch Band of Creek Indians Mattaponi 32. Nansemond Indian Nation Mvskoke 15. Narragansett Indian Tribe Nanaanongseuk 16. Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation 33. Monacan Indian Nation Pequot 34. USET Headquart 17. Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) 35. USET SPF Office 34. USET Headquarters Aquinnah 18. Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas Alibamu & Koasati

## United South and Eastern Tribes (USET)

Established in 1969, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) is a non-profit, inter-Tribal organization serving thirty-three (33) federally recognized Tribal Nations from the Northeastern Woodlands to the Everglades and across the Gulf of Mexico. USET is dedicated to enhancing the development of Tribal Nations, improving the capabilities of Tribal governments, and improving the quality of life for Indian people through a variety of technical and supportive programmatic services.

## USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF)

Established in 2014, the USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is a non-profit, inter-Tribal organization advocating on behalf of thirty-three (33) federally recognized Tribal Nations from the Northeastern Woodlands to the Everglades and across the Gulf of Mexico. USET SPF is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and advancing the inherent sovereign rights and authorities of Tribal Nations and in assisting its membership in dealing effectively with public policy issues.

Learn about our work to protect, promote, and advance the inherent sovereign rights and authorities of our member Tribal Nations at www.usetinc.org.

Because there is Strength in Unity

We are a collective of representatives from Virginia's Indigenous communities and institutions of higher education, directed by Tribal needs and goals. Join us!



Virginia Indigenous Nations in Higher Education Contact: Paula Robinson State Council of Higher **Education for Virginia** paularobinson@schev.edu Focus Areas \*Access/Success in Higher Education \*Land/Watershed Management/Conservation \*Cultural Resources/History/Archives/Restorative Justice \*Legal Issues/Business Development \*Tribal History in Virginia K-12 Education Standards \*Tribal Community Health

# **Conference Speakers**



**Nina Brundle** is a Geospatial Scientist at the Virginia Commonwealth University Rice Rivers Center. The VCU Rice Rivers Center is a biological field station located on the James River and plays a role in the research of diverse disciplines, including water resources, climate science, wildlife conservation and wetlands restoration.

Nina earned her master's degree in environmental studies and a Geographic Information Systems Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate from VCU. She is also a graduate of Christopher Newport University where she received a B.A. in biology.

During her graduate internship at the VCU Rice Rivers Center she created an award-winning Story Map which presents the results of a collaborative effort by the Pamunkey Indian Tribe, the VCU Rice Rivers Center and the United States Geological Survey to document the current state of water resources in the Pamunkey River.



**Wizipan Little Elk Garriott** is an enrolled citizen of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota. He was appointed to this role by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland in October 2021. The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs serves as the first assistant and principal advisor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs in the development and interpretation of policies affecting Indian Affairs bureaus, offices, and programs.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Garriott served as chief executive officer from 2012 to 2021 of the Rosebud Economic Development Corporation (REDCO), an ecosystem of Tribal organizations serving the Rosebud Indian Reservation. In this capacity, Mr. Garriott led and started businesses and community-based programs, including a Native language immersion school and 1,500-head buffalo herd. Mr. Garriott's previous federal service included serving under the leadership of Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk from 2009 to 2011.

Mr. Garriott was born and raised on the Rosebud Indian Reservation where he attended St. Francis Indian School, a Bureau of Indian Affairs (now Bureau of Indian Education) facility. Mr. Garriott became the first BIA student to attend and graduate from Yale University, where he also was the first student to use an Indigenous language – Lakota – to complete a foreign language graduation requirement. In 2003, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies. Mr. Garriott received his Juris Doctor degree in 2008 from the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College.



John Jastram is a Hydrologist who serves as the of the Studies Section Chief and the Program Development Specialist for the U.S. Geological Survey's Virginia and West Virginia Water Science Center in Richmond, VA. In these roles, John leads a team of scientists focused on water resources issues ranging from groundwater quality and availability to land subsidence to surface-water quality, as well as leading efforts to expand partnerships with federal, state and local agencies, tribes, and other organizations. John holds a BS in Environmental Analysis and Planning from Frostburg State University and an MS in Environmental Science and Engineering from Virginia Tech.



Marcie Kapsch serves as the Project Leader for the Eastern Virginia Rivers division of the National Wildlife Refuge Complex and has been with the NWR for thirteen years. She holds a bachelor's degree from Coastal Carolina university and a masters from the University of Louisiana. She began her career at the University of Miami in 2008 under a CESU agreement working at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR, in South Florida. After two years in that position, she was hired as a wildlife biologist at the Refuge. She worked at Loxahatchee NWR from 2008-2015 and from there transitioned to management. She served Santee NWR in SC, Port Louisa NWR in IA, and is currently at the four-refuge complex called the Eastern Virginia Rivers NWR Complex: Rappahannock River Valley NWR, James River NWR, Presquile NWR, and Plum Tree Island NWR.



**Jerry Pardilla** has served as Director of the Office of Environmental Resource Management with the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) since 2012. His professional career has primarily been in Indian Country, having served in Tribal government and leadership positions in Penobscot Nation Tribal government, and in Tribal organizations, including the National Tribal Environmental Council and Alaska Inter-Tribal Council. Jerry is a veteran and served as a commissioned officer and rated aviator in the Maine Army National Guard. Jerry and his wife Marla live in Rio Rancho, New Mexico.



Heather Richards is Mid-Atlantic Regional Director of The Conservation Fund. Heather oversees the Fund's Conservation Acquisition programs in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, West Virginia and Virginia. She also continues to serve as Virginia State Director, developing and implementing conservation projects throughout the Commonwealth. Heather has worked in the field of wildlife and land conservation and has extensive experience in implementing conservation programs on the ground in diverse communities. Her experience with land trusts includes chairing the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, as well as more than 10 years of leadership with Virginia's United Land Trusts (VaULT). Prior to coming to the Fund, Heather managed land conservation programs at the Piedmont Environmental Council and Potomac Conservancy She also coordinated species conservation and reintroduction programs for Defenders of Wildlife. Heather holds a Master of Environmental Management from Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and a B.A. in Political Science and Environmental Policy from American University.



Sherry L. Rupert (Paiute/Washoe) is CEO, American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association will present on Indigenous Tourism. She has nearly two decades of executivelevel experience managing and promoting Native American tourism. Since joining AIANTA as CEO in 2019, she has spearheaded several initiatives, including the organization's groundbreaking new Tribal Agritourism program and overseeing AIANTA's first-ever virtual American Indian Tourism Conference, which drew a record number of registrants in 2020. As CEO of the only national association dedicated to indigenous tourism, she is the leading voice when it comes to advocating for travel and tourism as a significant economic driver in tribal nations. Among her responsibilities, she curates a robust educational program for tribes and indigenous-owned hospitality enterprises around the country. Prior to assuming the role of CEO, she was President of AIANTA's Board of Directors since 2010. During that time, she was instrumental in working with Congress to pass the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act. Rupert was formerly the Executive Director of the State of Nevada Indian Commission, where she reported directly to the Governor of Nevada to serve as a liaison to the state's 27 tribes, bands and colonies. During her tenure, she developed the Nevada Indian Territory initiative and won awards and accolades for her work in preserving the site of the Stewart Indian School as a museum and cultural center.



Annie Scott is a Staff Scientist in the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Office of Tribal Relations. She holds a B.A. in Geology from the University of Montana and an M.Sc. from the University of Missouri and spent many years as an adjunct professor and youth science enrichment educator before joining USGS in 2016. In her current role, she supports national-scale Tribal engagement, co-leads the USGS Tribal Relations Community of Practice, and participates in events for Native youth in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).



Michael Spears is a Senior Researcher and GIS Analyst at Anthropological Research, LLC, a Tucson-based research firm that specializes in community-based ethnographic, archaeological, and geospatial research. Much of his current research focuses on collaborating with tribal communities to document Native American history and connections to place through place-based ethnographic and oral history research. Mr. Spears also conducts research on how U.S. environmental policies relate to and affect tribes, and has supported numerous tribes in creating federally-recognized Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO). Mr. Spears holds an M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Arizona. He is also a Research Specialist at the School of Anthropology at the University of Arizona.



Bryan Van Stippen is Program Director for National Indian Carbon Coalition, an initiative of the Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF) that provides education, training and technical assistance to American Indian tribes, Alaska Native Villages & Corporations, Native Hawaiian organizations and First Nations in Canada on the development of carbon credit and renewable energy projects on tribal land. A member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, Van Stippen previously served for seven years as Tribal Attorney for the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice in Wisconsin where he was responsible for land acquisition and other land-related issues. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Masters in Computer Information Systems from Tarleton State University in Texas. Van Stippen is a graduate of the University of North Dakota School of Law (J.D.); the University of Tulsa College of Law (LL.M. in American Indian and Indigenous Law); and the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law (S.J.D in Indigenous Peoples Law & Policy). He lives with his wife and two children in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Bryan is a representative on the Voluntary Carbon Market Initiative Expert Advisory Group, a Legacy Member of the Ecosystem Service Marketplace Consortium, and a representative on the Bipartisan Policy Center Farm and Forest Carbon Solutions Task Force.

# **Native American Women Warriors**

- Kaleigh Pollak
   Monacan Indian Nation
   Sergeant, US Army
- Carrie H olcomb Lenape Tribe US Marine Corps
- Reeva Tilley
  Rappahannock Tribe
  Sergeant First Class,
  US Army, Retired

#### Mission

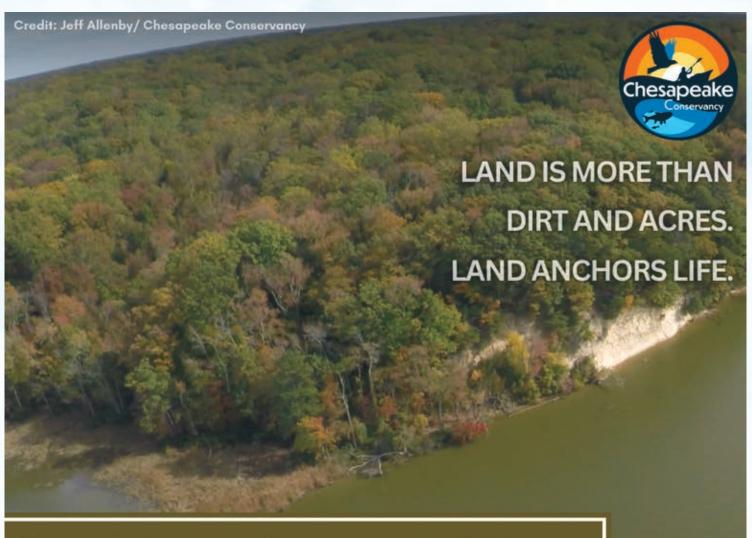
We are dedicated to surface recognition of women veterans, especially of Native American descent, and their contribution to the military, that represents our indigenous people and the United States of America.

#### Vision

Our goal is to assist our Native American women veterans in receiving the help desperately needed to empower themselves to take on modern challenges in education and employment; to guide those needing special services to attain a powerful mind, body and spirit.







Chesapeake Conservancy is proud to partner with The Rappahannock Tribe and other nonprofits in the return of the Tribe's ancestral homeland at Pissacoack.

We work with Tribes throughout the Chesapeake to conserve land, share their connection to the land dating back thousands of years and ensure their voices are heard.

We believe the Chesapeake is a national treasure that should be healthy, and accessible to everyone, and its watershed a place where people and wildlife thrive.

# CHICKAHOMINY POWWOW

September 23 - 24

8200 Lott Carry Road Providence Forge, VA 23140

# RAPPAHANNOCK POWWOW

October 7 - 8

Belle Grove Plantation 9221 Belle Grove Drive King George, VA 22485

# Thank you for attending today's Sovereignty Conference

Please be on the lookout for a follow-up email asking you to participate in a short survey regarding the effectiveness of the conference.

The survey will include space for you to submit any questions you may have about any topic discussed today. We will respond as quickly as possible.

The conference will be recorded and a viewing link will be available at sovereignnationsva.org.

