

**Statement on Farm Credit System Outreach  
to Veterans and Native Americans**  
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**Farm Credit Administration Board Meeting**  
**November 9, 2023**

Thank you, Chairman Logan, Board Member Hall, and Board Member Smith. And to all FCA employees and FCS institutions, we share greetings.

November is a time of gathering, a time of remembrance, and a time of honoring. As we all look forward to giving thanks with our loved ones, we begin the month in recognition of two communities that have contributed tremendously to the fabric of the United States.

November is National Native American Heritage Month and National Veterans and Military Families Month.

**Native American Heritage Month**

Native American Heritage Month is observed in the month of November to coincide with the traditional season of harvest. It is a time to honor and recognize the contributions, cultures, and histories of Native Americans in the United States.

November is an opportunity for all of us to also “learn from all that we observe,” which is a principle stated in a traditional Cherokee morning prayer.

The prayer contends that we each have a responsibility to strive toward better understandings of the world around us. We have a responsibility to use this knowledge to improve ourselves and the lives of others.

**National Veterans and Military Families Month**

November is also National Veterans and Military Families Month. Tomorrow is Veterans Day, a time when we show our appreciation to the brave men and women who have served in the United States military in times of war and peace. Veterans Day is a moment to recognize their valor and unwavering commitment to the ideals that define our great nation.

November, however, is also a month dedicated to acknowledging the families who stand steadfastly by the side of their loved ones who serve in the armed services.

Military service is, after all, a sacrifice borne by the servicemembers and their loved ones, who endure long separations and uncertainties, and share in the triumphs and challenges of service. Their strength, resilience, and devotion to their loved ones are pillars upon which our military community thrives.

**Guidance**

These communities are not mutually exclusive. American Indians and Alaska Natives serve in the U.S. military at the highest per capita rate of any ethno-demographic in the United States.

Earlier this month, Chairman Logan issued a memorandum encouraging Farm Credit System (System) institutions to increase their functional knowledge and outreach among tribal communities. The chairman's call is for System institutions to focus their attention both internally and externally to increase System outreach capacity among tribal communities.

Just yesterday, Chairman Logan issued a comparable memorandum encouraging System institutions to strengthen outreach to military veterans for lending and hiring purposes. Veterans represent an underused resource in the agricultural finance sector and the broader rural agriculture industry. The chairman's message highlights the unique skill set held by many veterans, which makes them well-suited for roles in finance and operations — perhaps most importantly in roles of leadership.

### **Closing thoughts**

As we close this month's board meeting, I implore all FCA employees to take a moment to learn more about each of these communities. From that knowledge, consider why do we care? Why are the people in these communities important to us?

Although we can all arrive at different conclusions individually, the one unequivocal truth is that the United States would not be what it is today without the sacrifices and contributions of both of these communities — whether it's the personal sacrifice of our veterans, or the inspiration the Five Leagues of the Iroquois provided to the founding fathers of the United States.

Chairman Logan, Board Member Hall, Board Member Smith, thank you for your support and consideration for the critical issues affecting Indian Country and our veteran community in the United States.