



*"Unity in Action. Humanity in Motion."*

## INDIGENOUS HEROES WHO DESERVE A HOLIDAY INSTEAD OF COLUMBUS

Partial list:

### Cockacoeske (Pamunkey / Powhatan Confederacy – 1600s)

Known by the English as "Queen of Pamunkey", she unified several Powhatan tribes after Bacon's Rebellion and secured their sovereignty in the 1677 Treaty of Middle Plantation. "[Unity – Cockacoeske's Dilemma](#)", a film by [Saving the Circle, Inc.](#)

**Legacy:** Diplomatic protector of her people.

### Tecumseh (Shawnee – 1768–1813)

Visionary leader who built a powerful intertribal alliance to resist U.S. expansion.

**Legacy:** Symbol of Indigenous unity and resistance to colonization.

### Chief Joseph (Nez Perce – 1840–1904)

Led his people through the Nez Perce War and became known for his declaration, "I will fight no more forever."

**Legacy:** Advocate for peace, dignity, and moral leadership.

### Zitkála-Šá (Yankton Dakota Sioux – 1876–1938)

Writer, musician, and activist who co-founded the National Council of American Indians and fought for citizenship and women's rights. **Legacy:** Defender of Native identity and equality.

### Mary Golda Ross (Cherokee Nation – 1908–2008)

Trailblazing aerospace engineer who contributed to NASA's Apollo missions and deep-space navigation.

**Legacy:** Pioneer of Native excellence in science and education.

### Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte (Omaha Tribe – 1865–1915)

First Native American woman physician; built a hospital on her reservation without government aid.

**Legacy:** Healer and community reformer.

### Chief Standing Bear (Ponca – 1829–1908)

Won a landmark 1879 court case affirming that "an Indian is a person" under U.S. law.

**Legacy:** Legal champion of Indigenous humanity.

### Lozen – The Apache Warrior Woman (Chiricahua Apache – 1840-1889)

Fought during the Apache resistance and would often ride into battle carrying both a rifle and a child (protecting the young while defending her people). she also helped lead noncombatants safely through mountains while men fought behind them.

**Legacy:** Indigenous women's leadership and resilience in the face of conquest.

### Sequoyah (Cherokee Nation – 1770–1843)

Created the Cherokee written language, one of the only scripts invented by a single person.

**Legacy:** Gave literacy and cultural endurance to his people.