

# N.A.H.F.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE FUND

315 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

**For Immediate Release:**

Date: July 14, 2020

## **Native American Heritage Fund Statement on the Washington Football Team's Retirement of Racist Mascot**

The Native American Heritage Fund (NAHF) celebrates the retirement of the racist Washington NFL mascot. This is a moment for all Indigenous people to celebrate the steadfast position taken by our Elders, Tribal leaders, and activists who have led this movement. This is an important step in closing a painful chapter of using a racial slur which disrespects and dehumanizes Native people.

"We sincerely hope that yesterday's announcement is one step in a continued journey to create change across our nation, in which derogatory and dehumanizing mascots are retired and we enter a new chapter in which the culture, history and value of all people is equally respected and celebrated," said NHBP Tribal Council Chairperson Jamie Stuck, who also serves as the Chair of the NAHF Board.

We commend the bold stance by FedEx, who announced that unless the team changed its name, the shipping giant would remove its signage from the team's stadium after the 2020 season, six years before the deal's expiration. We believe that without this courageous action, the team's owner would have taken many more decades to decide to do the right thing.

Only a few hours after the FedEx announcement, Nike, a major corporate sponsor of the Washington team, removed all merchandise connected to the team from its online store and issued a statement supporting the name change. Shortly after, PepsiCo and Bank of America, who are also major sponsors, each announced that they, too, wanted the mascot and logo changed. Amazon, Target and Wal-Mart also pulled Washington's merchandise from their websites.

The financial pressure put on the Washington team by these corporate giants was the final straw in bringing about this momentous change and we want to recognize every one of the corporations for having the courage to stand for what is right and just.

But the real work of educating people about the damage done by using a racial slur as a mascot and a caricature for a logo has been led by Native American groups and activists who stood up to say, "Change the Name!" and "We Are Not A Mascot!" We honor their tireless efforts and say Migwéch (thank you) for working to bring about change that will provide an environment for the next Seven Generations that is respectful and inclusive of the dignity of all people.

The NAHF is committed to incentivizing similar changes at local levels within the state in order to help schools reduce this damage and create a more healthy, safe and productive learning environment.

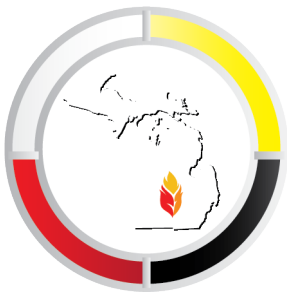
To learn more about the negative impacts of race-based mascots and the efforts to remove them, please visit [ncai.org/proudtobe](http://ncai.org/proudtobe), [changethemascot.org](http://changethemascot.org), or [illuminatives.org](http://illuminatives.org).

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**For media inquiries or to request an interview with NAHF Board Chairperson Jamie Stuck, please contact NHBP Director of Communications and Public Relations Judi Henkel at 269.704.8361.**

For questions regarding the NAHF grant process, please contact Calhoun County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott at 269.781.0966.

[About The Native American Heritage Fund](#)



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The NAHF was established in 2016 as part of the Second Amendment to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) and the State of Michigan. The amendment allowed for a portion of NHBP's annual state revenue sharing payment to be deposited into the NAHF.

The fund serves to promote positive relationships between public and private K-12 schools, colleges, universities, local units of government and Michigan's federally recognized Native American Tribes. The NAHF provides resources to help improve curricula and educational resources related to Michigan Indian history, as well as to replace or revise mascots and imagery that may be deemed as offensive to or inaccurately conveying the culture and values of Native Americans.

For more information visit: [nahfund.com](http://nahfund.com)