

From: Lopez, Maria
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 7:15 AM
To: Lopez, Maria
Subject: TODAY Mon., Aug 18@1pm: 2025 Class of Native American Honorees Acknowledged on Assembly floor and celebrated at evening reception



For Release:
August 13, 2025

Maria L. Lopez: 916-712-9854 (Cell)
E-mail:

MEDIA ALERT

1 p.m., Monday, August 18, 2025 at State Capitol Assembly Chambers
Evening reception Part 1 at 5 p.m., Native American Monument, Capitol Park
and Part 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Cafeteria 15L

Native American Caucus unveils 2025 Class of Honorees, including graduating students who wore tribal regalia

Ceremonial acknowledgment details, evening reception featuring honorees and cultural performances

SACRAMENTO— Assemblymember James C. Ramos (D-San Bernardino), chairperson of the California Legislative Native American Caucus, on Monday announces its 2025 Class of Honorees and details for three events acknowledging their contributions and work in California Native American communities. Honorees will receive legislative resolutions on the Assembly floor at 1 p.m. Monday, August 19 and be celebrated during a special two-part reception starting at 5 p.m. in Capitol Park at the Native American monument (L Street side of the park, across from the Hyatt Regency) and at 6:30 p.m., also on August 19, on the Cafeteria 15L patio, 1116 15 Street (15th & L Streets).

Honorees include students who persisted in wearing tribal regalia at graduation ceremonies, the first Native American woman admitted to State Bar of California, a long-time state tribal leader, educator, plus a civil rights activist and tribal leader:

- Livestream of Assembly Floor presentation at 1 p.m. on Assembly website at: <https://www.assembly.ca.gov/schedules-publications/todays-events>
- Livestream of 5 p.m. cultural presentations (Part 1) at Native American Monument, Capitol Park (L Street side opposite Hyatt Regency Hotel) at:
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/778189494784317/>
YouTube: https://youtube.com/live/0LAkRz0Xb_k?feature=share
- Livestream of 6:30 p.m. honoree and tribal leader presentations (Part 2) at:
Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/743048545166571/>
YouTube for website posting: <https://youtube.com/live/dD7cy8KFO0g?feature=share>

The Class of 2025 Honorees are listed below. Please contact Maria Lopez by email or cell number (listed above) if you wish to reach out to honorees.

- 2025 Clovis Unified School District high school graduates Bella Garcia (North Fork Mono tribe), Ethan Molina (Pascua and Yaqui), Jesse Reza (Table Mountain Chuckchansi Band of Yukots), Lily Hawkins (Choinumni) and 2024 graduate Jennie Rocha (Comanche). These students staunchly and persistently defended their right to wear traditional tribal regalia and emblems during their graduation ceremonies, a right protected by state and federal laws. These students demonstrated true courage and resolve.
- Judge Abby Abinanti, the first Native American woman admitted to the California State Bar and first Native American named as State Judicial Officer for San Francisco's Superior Court. She was appointed in 2007 as Chief Tribal Court Judge of the Yurok Tribe, jointly serving as judge and commissioner until 2015. In 2020, the Indian Law Section of the Federal Bar Association recognized her with its Lawrence R. Baca Lifetime Achievement Award and she was the documentary subject of "Tribal Justice," on the PBS series POV. Abinanti was the first California tribal person to serve as a state judicial officer, according to the National Judicial Council. The Council also noted that during her 17-year career with the San Francisco Superior Court, she handled mostly juvenile dependency and delinquency cases, not hesitating "to make waves when it came to the welfare of children."

- Councilwoman Catalina Chacon, a citizen of the Pechanga Band of Indians where she has served on its council since 2012. Chacon has held positions as Vice Chair of the California Tribal Families Coalition, Vice Chair of the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations and presently serves as a member of the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. She is an active advocate for her community in confronting the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People crisis. She testified and championed creation of the Feather Alert, a notification system to alert the public when an Indigenous person goes missing.
- Rose Mary Salgado, (posthumous), a beloved mother, grandmother, sister and tribal leader born and raised on the reservation of the Soboba (so-Bo-bah) Band of Luiseño Indians, of which she was a member and where she served on the council for 28 years. She served on numerous nonprofit and educational boards, where she championed educational equity for American Indian students. Salgado was a Trustee of the San Jacinto Unified School District. On August 7, the district opened its newest school—the Rose Salgado Elementary School—in recognition of her profound impact and legacy in education, especially for Native American students. Salgado’s daughter, Desiree Salgado; granddaughter Avellaka Arviso and Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Tribal Chairman Isaiah Vivanco will accept the Native American Legislative Caucus award for the honoree.
- Chairman Frederick Quinton “Bo” Mazzetti (posthumous) was born, raised and lived on the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indian Reservation, where he was elected tribal chairman in 2007 and held the office for more than five consecutive terms. Chairman Mazzetti also served as President of the San Luis Rey Indian Water Authority Board of Directors until his passing. As chairman of that water authority board, Mazzetti led a five-tribe coalition to secure an agreement with the federal government that ended a five-decade-long legal battle. Mazzetti served in the United States Navy and graduated from California Polytechnic University Pomona with a B.S. degree in Behavioral Science. He created the statewide Tribal Chairpersons’ Association and the Southern California Tribal Chairmens’ Association. Accepting the honor on his behalf are his daughter, Emily Mazzetti, and his son, Rik Mazzetti, current Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians Chairman.

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Assemblymember James C. Ramos proudly represents the 45th Assembly district that includes Fontana, Highland, Mentone, Redlands, Rialto and San Bernardino. He is the first and only California Native American serving in the Legislature. Ramos chairs the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #6 on Public Safety, the Assembly Select Committee on Native American Affairs and the California Legislative Native American Caucus.