FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Attention: News Editor, Assignment Editor

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57th NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING TO BE OBSERVED IN PLYMOUTH, MA
AT 12 NOON ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2026

United American Indians of New England (UAINE) has called for the 56th National Day of Mourning in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on Thursday, November 26, 2026 at 12 o'clock noon. Participants will gather by the statue of Massasoit on Cole's Hill above the Plymouth waterfront.

Since 1970, hundreds of Native people and non-Native allies have gathered annually in Plymouth on U.S. Thanksgiving Day.

According to UAINE co-leader Kisha James, who is Aquinnah Wampanoag and Oglala Lakota and the granddaughter of Wamsutta Frank James, the founder of National Day of Mourning, “Native people have no reason to celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims. We want to educate people about the true origins of the first Thanksgiving, which were far bloodier than the ‘Pilgrims and Indians’ story in the Thanksgiving myth. The first official day of ‘thanksgiving’ was declared in Massachusetts in 1637 by Puritan Governor Winthrop to celebrate the massacre of over 700 Pequot men, women and children on the banks of the Mystic River in Connecticut. Wampanoag and other Indigenous people have certainly not lived happily ever after since the arrival of the Pilgrims. To us, Thanksgiving is a Day of Mourning, because we remember the millions of our ancestors who were murdered by the Pilgrims and subsequent generations of settlers. Today, we and many Indigenous people around the country say, ‘No Thanks, No Giving.”

James explained that much of the day will also be devoted to speaking about contemporary issues. “More than 400 years after the arrival of the Mayflower, Indigenous people are still denied basic human rights and full control of their own homelands. Change is long past due. We are still facing many of the issues that our elders talked about in 1970 at the first National Day of Mourning. We call on non-Native people to listen to Indigenous voices, especially about how to address the climate crisis, and to join us in trying to stop the continued destruction of our homelands and waterways by greedy corporations. Native lands must be returned to our control in order to ensure a future for all of life on earth.”

UAINE co-leader Mahtowin Munro spoke about some of the current issues that affect Indigenous communities. “Participants in National Day of Mourning this year will speak about many things. We will mourn and honor the thousands of Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit (#MMIWG2S) and other Indigenous Relatives. We demand an end to the vicious federal cuts to food programs, housing, education, and healthcare because those cuts are having a serious impact on Native Nations as well as other people. From Peru to British Columbia, from Boston to the Amazon, Indigenous peoples are defending their sovereignty, calling for land back, and insisting that nothing should happen on their lands without their freely given consent. Indigenous solidarity and resistance are international. We

stand in solidarity with all the Indigenous nations around the world opposing pipelines, mines, resource extraction, and megadams and note that Indigenous people are all too often casualties in frontline efforts to stop extraction. We also support the call of millions to end the ongoing genocide in Gaza and for an end to the ICE raids, detentions and deportations that are devastating families and communities across the country, many of them Indigenous."

North American Indian Center of Boston president Jean-Luc Pierite spoke on community and coalition building among the relocated and displaced Indigenous peoples within the context of American imperialism, "As Massachusetts' oldest urban Indian center, we deliver cultural and social services to the New England Native American community. Racialized immigration assaults continue to endanger our peoples, especially those experiencing housing insecurity. We share in the concerns of Tribal leaders regarding the United States Census revisions removing face and ethnic data. We further call for the preservation of protections of sacred sites through Section 106 reviews. On a municipal level, we call on the City of Boston and the Town of Plymouth to honor their obligations to Indigenous peoples. We walk the path of our elders and ancestors organizationally and in the movement."

11/24/26 Statement of UAINE regarding court case in Plymouth Superior Court

We are focused on our preparations and moving ahead with what will be our 57th National Day of Mourning.

Settlers frequently break their agreements with Indigenous peoples. In fact, the US has broken every single treaty it signed with Native Nations.

The Court's decision recognized that the Settlement Agreement remains binding and valid still to this day. It also confirmed that NDOM is not subject to permitting requirements, insurance demands, or any indemnity obligations that the Town has tried to thrust upon UAINE.

We disagree with the preliminary finding that the deterioration of the original showmobile changes what the parties intended or what the Town should remain obligated to do.

It is undisputed that the Town has provided either a showmobile or stage for NDOM for nearly 30 years and nothing about NDOM has changed that would allow the Town, acting in good faith, to abandon its obligation.

The Court did not order the Town to set up a stage or provide a showmobile for NDOM 2026 for the very narrow reason that the Agreement says the Town will provide "its showmobile" and not "a showmobile". While this ruling allows the Town, for now, to reject its obligations (based on a one-word technicality the Town never raised for over a decade) the Town's vote remains an outrageous choice that absolutely no one was forcing Plymouth to make. Contracts do not end on the day they are signed—each party maintains a duty to engage with the other in good faith and to deal fairly. Plymouth has not done so and UAINE is continuing to review the ruling and evaluate its legal options.

ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is hereby **ORDERED** that

1. The Parties' 1998 Settlement Agreement remains binding and valid; is **ALLOWED**

2. Defendants and their employees, agents, servants, officers, and persons in concert with Defendants, are enjoined from requiring UAINE to obtain any form of insurance or financial bond in relation to its National Day of Mourning activities; **ALLOWED**

3. Defendants, and their employees, agents, servants, officers, and persons in concert with Defendants, are enjoined from requiring UAINE to execute any form of indemnity, defense, or hold-harmless agreement, or to assume any premium-shifting obligation, in relation to its Nation Day of Mourning activities; **ALLOWED**

4. Defendants, and their employees, agents, servants, officers, and persons in concert with Defendants, are enjoined from requiring UAINE to obtain municipal permits for its National Day of Mourning activities; **ALLOWED**

5. Defendants, and their employees, agents, servants, officers, and persons in concert with Defendants, are enjoined from repudiating or ceasing performance of the 1998 Settlement Agreement, including as voted by the Plymouth Select Board on November 10, 2026; **DENIED**

6. Defendants, and their employees, agents, servants, officers, and persons in concert with Defendants, are required to facilitate, prepare, and enable the National Day of Mourning activities take place, consistent with the 1998 Settlement Agreement and historical practice, including without limitation the erection of a stage on Cole's Hill for NDOM 2026 or substitutionary performance acceptable to UAINE. **DENIED**

Brian S. Glenny
Justice of the Superior Court