

AMERICA. MADE IN VIRGINIA. SIGNATURE EVENT



INSPIRING A SEASON OF CIVIC RENEWAL

On behalf of the VA250 Commission, the Virginia Tribal Nations Leadership Advisory Council, and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and in partnership with the United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF), it is our distinct honor to invite you to attend a unique national event: The Inherently Sovereign Status and Existence of Tribal Nations.

April 24, 2026 | Reception & Dinner

April 25, 2026 | Program 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. ET Colonial Williamsburg | Williamsburg, Virginia

A HISTORIC BEGINNING TO THE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

VA250 will launch its 2026 commemorations by centering the unvarnished history and lived experiences of Tribal Nations who stewarded these lands long before the Declaration of Independence. Tribal governance traditions informed the democratic framework later adopted by the United States. This program will invite participants to engage in a shared history, recognize the enduring contributions of Tribal Nations across Turtle Island, and reflect on themes of perseverance and nation-building.

The program will begin with a dinner on April 24 and continue throughout the day on April 25 at The Lodge at Colonial Williamsburg. Panels and presentations will feature leading voices from Indian Country, including elected Tribal leaders, scholars, and representatives from advocacy and legal organizations. Through first-hand accounts and informed analysis, the event will offer a more complete understanding of the nation's origins and foster a better-informed citizenry.

The Honorable Tim Kaine and the Honorable Mark Warner will provide remarks during the April 24 dinner. The Honorable Justice Neil Gorsuch will provide remarks during lunch on April 25.

Tribal Nations are not chapters in America's past — they are *enduring, inherently sovereign governments* shaping America's present and future.

For more information, contact Kitcki Carroll at kcarroll@usetinc.org or Frank Sadler at fsadler@va250.virginia.org.

Program Highlights

GRAND ENTRY & CEREMONIAL OPENING

Procession of Tribal Nations, posting of flags, prayer offering, and Native youth presentations.

FOUNDATIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY

Pre-foreign contact governance and the documented influence of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy on the American democratic model.

FORWARD-LOOKING DIALOGUE

From early treaty-making to modern Tribal governance, leaders and scholars will explore strengthening nation-to-nation relationships and building a more visible, empowered future for Indian Country.