

WELCOME TO MASHPEE - LAND OF THE WAMPANOAGS

Once again we gather here on Wampanoag land to celebrate the coming together and sharing of our heritage with our sisters and brothers from neighboring tribes and from tribes throughout the land.

MASHPEE WAMPANOAG INDIANS

For the "People of the First Light," the Annual Powwow is a time for meeting old and new friends, strengthening the ties of our Native American heritage, passing on knowledge from our elders to our youth, and a time to thank the Great Spirit for letting us come together.

The Powwow gives Native Americans a chance to show unity and to share traditional and contemporary talents with those who join us on this occasion.

This is also an occasion for remembering events that have come to pass over the past 300 years. Our ancestors welcomed the Europeans to these shores, taught them to survive, and suffered for their kindness. We, their descendants, are still fighting for recognition of what is rightfully ours.

Not only is this a time for remembering, but it is also a time for giving thanks to the many people who have supported Wampanoag concerns over the past years. We thank those who want to learn more about Native Americans and who support our customs and traditions that we strive to keep alive. We thank all who are celebrating with the People of the First Light at this Annual Powwow.

Ho!

Peace,

Joan Avant Tavares
Joan Avant Tavares,
President, Mashpee Wampanoag
Indian Tribal Council, Inc.
Director, Title IV, Part A,
Mashpee Public School,
Indian Education Program.