



## NCAI President Commemorates Anniversary of Retirement of Washington Football Team's Mascot; More Schools Retire Their Native "Themed" Mascots

*"True respect for Native people and other people of color requires our country to rid itself of the symbols of racism and intolerance that have far too long been embedded in popular culture and which have marginalized and dehumanized us. These symbols and names have no place in American society, and our work is not yet done."*

*-- Fawn Sharp (Quinault), NCAI President*

### NCAI President Fawn Sharp Commemorates One-Year Anniversary of the Retirement of the Washington Football Team Name and Imagery

On Tuesday, July 13, the one-year anniversary of the Washington Football Team retiring its "R\*dsk\*ns" mascot, [NCAI President Fawn Sharp shared a statement recognizing the grit and dedication of Tribal Nations, tribal leaders, citizens, advocates and allies](#), whose collective effort made such an outcome possible. President Sharp also reiterated NCAI and Indian Country's broad opposition to the continued use of Native "themed" mascots at more than 1,000 high schools across the country. "NCAI will not rest until all offensive Native-themed mascots and associated imagery are removed from popular culture and we call upon our partners and allies across the nation to join us in our resolve to push this positive momentum forward," she said.

#### Emmerich Manual High School (IN) "R\*dsk\*ns"

On Tuesday, July 13, [the Indiana High School Athletic Association approved a merger of the sports teams at Christel House Watanabe and Emmerich Manual which officially retires the "R\\*dsk\\*ns" mascot at Manual High School](#). Christel House, a local charter school, assumed management of Emmerich Manual in July 2020 and immediately engaged the community regarding the use of the former mascot. Christel House Executive Director Sarah Weimer described the mascot change process as "a prime opportunity to reinvent what Manual is." The newly merged school will compete as The Christel House at Manual "Eagles" based on a vote by students from both Watanabe and Manual.

#### Hart High School (CA) "Indians"

On Wednesday, July 14, [the William S. Hart Union High School District Governing Board](#)

[voted 4-1 to replace its "Indians" mascot](#). The decision comes after months of community discussion around the issue and followed a lengthy Board meeting which featured significant input from community members. According to the adopted resolution, the school will retire its "Indians" mascot by June 30, 2025. "It wasn't OK to leave things as they were when I know there are people that are hurting," said Board President Dr. Cherise Moore.

### **North Haven High School (CT) "Indians"**

On Wednesday, July 14, [the North Haven Board of Education voted unanimously to retire its "Indians" mascot](#). The retirement vote follows years of community discussion around the issue, including heightened conversations in recent months. "Together as a board and individually, we have put in countless hours of research and dialog, we have heard the public speak on both sides of this issue, and we understand the passion many have for our town's history," said Board Chair Anita Anderson. "Each board member listened to students, community members, and other stakeholders, as well as conducted their own research, to ensure that they had an in-depth understanding of this issue prior to their vote," added Superintendent Patrick Stirk.

### **Atchison High School (KS) "Phoenix"**

On Monday, July 12, [the Atchison Unified School District Board of Education voted 5-1 to approve its new mascot, the "Phoenix"](#). In April, the Board voted to retire its "Redmen" (Atchison High School) and "Braves" (Atchison Middle School) mascots. According to local reporting, "Phoenix" received the most votes in community surveys conducted after the mascot retirements.

***Ending "Indian" Mascots** is an informational service provided by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), which is the oldest, largest, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization serving the broad interests of tribal governments and communities. It has been leading Indian Country's movement to eradicate offensive "Indian" mascots from sports and popular culture for the past 50 years by educating schools, sports leagues, and the general public about the [many harms they cause Native people](#). To learn more, please click [here](#). To request NCAI's assistance in your community, please email [mascots@ncai.org](mailto:mascots@ncai.org).*

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Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country. NCAI advocates on behalf of tribal governments, promoting strong tribal-federal government-to-government policies, and promoting a better understanding among the general public regarding American Indian and Alaska Native governments, people and rights.

