

EXPANDING NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

SENATOR MCCAIN FOUGHT TIRELESSLY TO UPHOLD THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S SOLEMN OBLIGATION TO CARE FOR AND EMPOWER NATIVE AMERICANS.

Advancing Indian Self-Governance

Senator McCain twice chaired the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs from 1995-1997 and again from 2005-2007. Throughout his career, he led efforts to advance the principles of Indian self-governance and self-determination. In 1993, Senators McCain and Daniel Inouye (D-HI) introduced the [Indian Gaming Regulatory Act](#), which enabled tribes to develop a \$27 billion gaming industry. The same year, Senator McCain sponsored the [Tribal Self-Governance Act](#), which ended federal paternalism over tribally-administered healthcare, education, law enforcement and other vital community services.

Senator McCain worked with Senator Jon Kyl (R-AZ), Congressman Mo Udall (R-AZ), and other leaders in Congress to complete 10 Indian water settlements for tribes across the state of Arizona. He was a lead cosponsor of the [Water Settlement Act of 2004](#), which is regarded as the most impactful water settlement legislation in Arizona history.

Combating Child Abuse in Indian Country

Senator McCain also worked to combat child abuse and protect the safety and wellbeing of young people in Indian Country. For example, he championed the *Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act* to combat child physical and sexual abuse on Indian reservations. In 2018, Senator McCain championed the [Ashlynnne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act](#), legislation expanding the AMBER Alert child abduction warning system on Native American reservations. The legislation passed both chambers of Congress and was signed into law by President Trump.

Native American Culture Preservation

To preserve an endangered culture, Senator McCain championed legislation to safeguard Native languages, honor the sacrifice of the Navajo Code Talkers, and finalize the construction of the [National Museum of the American Indians](#) in Washington, D.C.