



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montaukett Chief Robert Pharaoh Named Grand Marshal for East Hampton Town's 375th Anniversary Parade

September 23 parade will begin at 10 a.m. on Main Street in East Hampton and travel up Newtown Lane to East Hampton High School's 11 a.m. Homecoming Festival and Homecoming Football Game at 1 p.m.

In recognition of the original, indigenous inhabitants of the land where the Town of East Hampton was established in 1648, Robert Pharaoh, Chief of the Montauketts, will lead the Town's 375th Anniversary Parade as Grand Marshal.

Hugh King, the town historian, will serve as announcer, stationed at a reviewing stand at Herrick Park. The Montaukett Women's Circle Dancers will perform on the East Hampton Middle School grounds across Newtown Lane from the reviewing stand when the parade reaches that point. A wide range of community groups will also participate in the parade.

The selection of Chief Pharaoh as Grand Marshal underscores East Hampton Town's recognition of and support for the Montaukett Tribe, which has been seeking to have New York State officially recognize the tribe.

The Montauketts were stripped of that status by a judge in a 1910 case, Pharaoh v. Benson, related to Arthur Benson's efforts to acquire Montaukett Indian Nation homelands in Montauk, at Indian Field.

While NYS Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele Jr. and Sen. Anthony Palumbo have been successful in getting a bill passed in the New York State Legislature, it has not yet been signed by Governor Kathy Hochul. Previous bills passed by the legislature were vetoed by both Gov. Hochul and by former Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo.

The September 23 parade follows a History Fair on the Town Hall grounds in June, which featured presentations by students from local schools on various aspects of East Hampton Town's history.

