

Today we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, which is celebrated globally on April 22. Earth Day is a day to honor the mother earth for all she has given us and continues to give us. She is sacred to us as indigenous people as she is the provider of our existence and well-being. Her love is undeniable as she has always provided for our people.

However, it is important to remember that her love is conditional and we must strive to respect and care for her to continue to receive her blessings. This is what we instinctively know from the time we are born and as we look back in our history to our ancestors. We see that that she is in every part of our history, tradition, and culture. Our baskets and pottery are every bit a part of her. Our stories and our songs praise her and instruct our future generations to care for her. The items within our museums are all remnants of the tools *she* provided to our people to help them survive and flourish.

Therefore, we must not forget our inherent responsibility to care for her so that she will continue to provide for many generations to come. Please join the Gila River Indian Community and the Department of Environmental Quality in honoring our mother earth today and everyday hereafter. Earth Day is Everyday in Gila River!



Putting Our People First
Stephen Roe Lewis
Governor, Gila River Indian Community



A healthy, sustainable environment for our future generations