



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, American Indians, who have inhabited this continent since long before their first contact with English settlers, shared their knowledge of the land and its resources, and have continued to play a vital role in the development of the local communities, the state of North Carolina, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to more than 122,000 American Indians, and has eight historic tribes: Coharie, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Haliwa Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of Saponi, Sappony, and Waccamaw-Siouan; in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes Chapters 71A-3 through 71A-7.2, these tribes are legally recognized by the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs was created in 1971 by the North Carolina General Assembly to advocate for local, regional, and national American Indian concerns; and

WHEREAS, our state has enjoyed a positive relationship with the indigenous peoples of North Carolina, and continues to grow in our shared progress; we honor and respect the heritage, and the many cultural and economic contributions of our American Indian tribes and citizens; and

WHEREAS, despite this relationship, there are disparities in the fair treatment of our American Indian tribes, and insufficient acknowledgment of the historic destruction of our indigenous cultures; in an effort to provide a more accurate record of United States history, representatives from 120 indigenous nations at the First Continental Conference On 500 Years Of Indian Resistance unanimously passed a resolution to transform Columbus Day into an occasion to recognize the contributions and plight of indigenous Americans; and

WHEREAS, the idea of Indigenous People's Day was first proposed in 1977 by the International Conference on Discrimination Against the Indigenous Population in the Americas, a delegation sponsored by First Nations leaders to the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs encourages all citizens to acknowledge the historic sacrifices of indigenous peoples, and recognize their contributions to the emergence and development of the state, the nation, the free world, and the global economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the second Monday in October, 2017, as "INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this ninth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.