

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 62

To honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2007

Mr. BACA (for himself, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. WU, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. COSTA, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. KIND, Mr. SIRES, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. FILNER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BOREN, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. REYES, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SHULER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. FARR, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WATSON, Ms. LEE, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HARE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. ISSA) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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Committee on Education and Labor discharged; which was considered and passed

JOINT RESOLUTION

To honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Native American Her-
5 itage Day Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) Native Americans are the descendants of
9 the aboriginal, indigenous, native people who were
10 the original inhabitants of and who governed the
11 lands that now constitute the United States;

12 (2) Native Americans have volunteered to serve
13 in the United States Armed Forces and have served
14 with valor in all of the Nation’s military actions
15 from the Revolutionary War through the present
16 day, and in most of those actions, more Native
17 Americans per capita served in the Armed Forces
18 than any other group of Americans;

19 (3) Native American tribal governments devel-
20 oped the fundamental principles of freedom of
21 speech and separation of governmental powers that

1 were a model for those that form the foundation of
2 the United States Constitution;

3 (4) the Founding Fathers based the provisions
4 of the Constitution on the unique system of democ-
5 racy of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy,
6 which divided powers among the branches of govern-
7 ment and provided for a system of checks and bal-
8 ances;

9 (5) Native Americans have made distinct and
10 significant contributions to the United States and
11 the rest of the world in many fields, including agri-
12 culture, medicine, music, language, and art, and Na-
13 tive Americans have distinguished themselves as in-
14 ventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and schol-
15 ars;

16 (6) Native Americans should be recognized for
17 their contributions to the United States as local and
18 national leaders, artists, athletes, and scholars;

19 (7) nationwide recognition of the contributions
20 that Native Americans have made to the fabric of
21 American society will afford an opportunity for all
22 Americans to demonstrate their respect and admira-
23 tion of Native Americans for their important con-
24 tributions to the political, cultural, and economic life
25 of the United States;

1 (8) nationwide recognition of the contributions
2 that Native Americans have made to the Nation will
3 encourage self-esteem, pride, and self-awareness in
4 Native Americans of all ages;

5 (9) designation of the Friday following Thanks-
6 giving of each year as Native American Heritage
7 Day will underscore the government-to-government
8 relationship between the United States and Native
9 American governments;

10 (10) designation of Native American Heritage
11 Day will encourage public elementary and secondary
12 schools in the United States to enhance under-
13 standing of Native Americans by providing curricula
14 and classroom instruction focusing on the achieve-
15 ments and contributions of Native Americans to the
16 Nation; and

17 (11) the Friday immediately succeeding
18 Thanksgiving Day of each year would be an appro-
19 priate day to designate as Native American Heritage
20 Day.

21 **SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIVE AMERICAN HERIT-**
22 **AGE DAY.**

23 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF MODEL EDUCATIONAL CUR-
24 RICULA.—Educational institutions are encouraged to de-
25 velop model educational curricula, in consultation with

1 Native American governmental leaders, for purposes of
2 recognizing a Native American Heritage Day, emphasizing
3 the contributions of Native Americans to the United
4 States and the world, including—

5 (1) the historical and constitutional status of
6 Native American tribal governments as well as the
7 present day status of Native Americans;

8 (2) the cultures, traditions, and languages of
9 Native Americans; and

10 (3) the rich Native American cultural legacy
11 that all Americans enjoy today.

12 (b) CELEBRATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE
13 DAY.—Congress encourages the people of the United
14 States, as well as Federal, State, and local governments
15 and interested groups and organizations to observe a Na-
16 tive American Heritage Day with appropriate programs,
17 ceremonies, and activities.

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