

Calendar No. 926

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. J. RES. 62

[Report No. 110-435]

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

JULY 31, 2008

Reported by Mr. DORGAN, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic]

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—

1 (1) Native Americans are the descendants of
2 the aboriginal, indigenous, native people who were
3 the original inhabitants of and who governed the
4 lands that now constitute the United States;

5 (2) Native Americans have volunteered to serve
6 in the United States Armed Forces and have served
7 with valor in all of the Nation's military actions
8 from the Revolutionary War through the present
9 day, and in most of those actions, more Native
10 Americans per capita served in the Armed Forces
11 than any other group of Americans;

12 (3) Native American tribal governments devel-
13 oped the fundamental principles of freedom of
14 speech and separation of governmental powers that
15 were a model for those that form the foundation of
16 the United States Constitution;

17 (4) the Founding Fathers based the provisions
18 of the Constitution on the unique system of democ-
19 racy of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy,
20 which divided powers among the branches of govern-
21 ment and provided for a system of checks and bal-
22 ances;

23 (5) Native Americans have made distinct and
24 significant contributions to the United States and
25 the rest of the world in many fields, including agri-

1 culture, medicine, music, language, and art, and Na-
2 tive Americans have distinguished themselves as in-
3 ventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and schol-
4 ars;

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

8 (7) nationwide recognition of the contributions
9 that Native Americans have made to the fabric of
10 American society will afford an opportunity for all
11 Americans to demonstrate their respect and admira-
12 tion of Native Americans for their important con-
13 tributions to the political, cultural, and economic life
14 of the United States;

15 (8) nationwide recognition of the contributions
16 that Native Americans have made to the Nation will
17 encourage self-esteem, pride, and self-awareness in
18 Native Americans of all ages;

19 (9) designation of the Friday following Thanks-
20 giving of each year as Native American Heritage
21 Day will underscore the government-to-government
22 relationship between the United States and Native
23 American governments;

24 (10) designation of Native American Heritage
25 Day will encourage public elementary and secondary

1 schools in the United States to enhance under-
 2 standing of Native Americans by providing curricula
 3 and classroom instruction focusing on the achieve-
 4 ments and contributions of Native Americans to the
 5 Nation; and

6 (11) the Friday immediately succeeding
 7 Thanksgiving Day of each year would be an appro-
 8 priate day to designate as Native American Heritage
 9 Day.

10 **SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIVE AMERICAN HERIT-**
 11 **AGE DAY.**

12 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF MODEL EDUCATIONAL CUR-
 13 RICULA.—Educational institutions are encouraged to de-
 14 velop model educational curricula, in consultation with
 15 Native American governmental leaders, for purposes of
 16 recognizing a Native American Heritage Day, emphasizing
 17 the contributions of Native Americans to the United
 18 States and the world, including—

19 (1) the historical and constitutional status of
 20 Native American tribal governments as well as the
 21 present day status of Native Americans;

22 (2) the cultures, traditions, and languages of
 23 Native Americans; and

24 (3) the rich Native American cultural legacy
 25 that all Americans enjoy today.

1 (b) **CELEBRATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE**
2 **DAY.**—Congress encourages the people of the United
3 States, as well as Federal, State, and local governments
4 and interested groups and organizations to observe a Na-
5 tive American Heritage Day with appropriate programs,
6 ceremonies, and activities.

7 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

8 *This Act may be cited as the “Native American Herit-*
9 *age Day Act of 2008”.*

10 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

11 *Congress finds that—*

12 (1) *Native Americans are the descendants of the*
13 *aboriginal, indigenous, native people who were the*
14 *original inhabitants of the United States;*

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

22 (3) *Native Americans have made distinct and*
23 *significant contributions to the United States and the*
24 *rest of the world in many fields, including agri-*
25 *culture, medicine, music, language, and art, and Na-*

1 *tive Americans have distinguished themselves as in-*
2 *ventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;*

3 (4) *Native Americans should be recognized for*
4 *their contributions to the United States as local and*
5 *national leaders, artists, athletes, and scholars;*

6 (5) *nationwide recognition of the contributions*
7 *that Native Americans have made to the fabric of*
8 *American society will afford an opportunity for all*
9 *Americans to demonstrate their respect and admira-*
10 *tion of Native Americans for their important con-*
11 *tributions to the political, cultural, and economic life*
12 *of the United States;*

13 (6) *nationwide recognition of the contributions*
14 *that Native Americans have made to the Nation will*
15 *encourage self-esteem, pride, and self-awareness in*
16 *Native Americans of all ages;*

17 (7) *designation of the Friday following Thanks-*
18 *giving of each year as Native American Heritage Day*
19 *will underscore the government-to-government rela-*
20 *tionship between the United States and Native Amer-*
21 *ican governments; and*

22 (8) *designation of Native American Heritage*
23 *Day will encourage public elementary and secondary*
24 *schools in the United States to enhance understanding*
25 *of Native Americans by providing curricula and*

1 *classroom instruction focusing on the achievements*
2 *and contributions of Native Americans to the Nation.*

3 **SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE**

4 **DAY.**

5 *Congress—*

6 (1) *designates Friday, November 28, 2008, as*
7 *“Native American Heritage Day”; and*

8 (2) *encourages the people of the United States, as*
9 *well as Federal, State, and local governments, and in-*
10 *terested groups and organizations to observe Native*
11 *American Heritage Day with appropriate programs,*
12 *ceremonies, and activities, including activities relat-*
13 *ing to—*

14 (A) *the historical status of Native American*
15 *tribal governments as well as the present day*
16 *status of Native Americans;*

17 (B) *the cultures, traditions, and languages*
18 *of Native Americans; and*

19 (C) *the rich Native American cultural leg-*
20 *acy that all Americans enjoy today.*

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