The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington is home to 29 federally-recognized Indian Tribes, as well as out-of-state tribes with treaty reserved rights in Washington; and members and descendants of tribes from all over the country also reside in the state of Washington; and

WHEREAS, Native American contributions and values have helped shape the social, political, environmental, and economic fabric of the state, while also enhancing freedom, prosperity, and cultural diversity; and

WHEREAS, state law, RCW 28A.320.170, mandates the teaching of tribal history, culture, and government in common schools; which will contribute greatly to improving school's history curriculum and enhances awareness for a better cultural understanding; and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington is committed to strengthening the government-to-government relationships with Tribal Nations, and continues to work with tribal governments on issues of mutual concern for the betterment of all; and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington has designated the Friday immediately following the fourth Thursday in November, as a state legal and school holiday, known as Native American Heritage Day; and

WHEREAS, Washington joins other states across the nation in celebrating Native American Heritage Month, honoring the unique heritage of this continent's First People, and reaffirming the commitment to respect each tribe's sovereignty and cultural identity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the State of Washington, do hereby proclaim November 2016 as

Native American Heritage Month

in Washington State, and I urge all people in our state to commemorate with appropriate programs and activities, and to celebrate November 25, 2016, as Native American Heritage Day.

Signed this 1st day of November, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee