

# 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**, the many contributions and achievements of Native Americans have helped shape the social, political, environmental, and economic fabric of the state, while also enhancing freedom, prosperity, and cultural diversity; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington passed Substitute Senate Bill 5433, which mandates the teaching of tribal history, culture, and government in common schools, which will contribute greatly to improving school's history curriculum; and

**WHEREAS**, 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; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State has designated the Friday immediately following the fourth Thursday in November, 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 identity;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the State of Washington, do hereby proclaim November 2015 as

### *Native American Heritage Month*

in Washington State, and I urge the public to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities, and to celebrate November 27, 2015, as Native American Heritage Day.



Signed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2015

Governor Jay Inslee