The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington State is home to 29 federally recognized Indian Tribes, as well as out of state tribes with treaty reserved rights in Washington; and

WHEREAS, 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, Washingtonians acknowledge and respect the history and heritage of Native Americans, and recognize the significant role Native Americans have had on the progress and cultural character of our state; 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, 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 2014 as

Native American Heritage Month

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities, and to celebrate November 28, 2014, as Native American Heritage Day.

Signed this 31st day of October, 2014

Governor Jay Inslee