



State of North Carolina

PAT McCRORY
GOVERNOR

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

2015

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, American Indians are the original inhabitants of North Carolina, having lived in the state for more than 12,000 years; today, more than 122,000 call North Carolina home, which makes our state the largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi River, and the eighth largest American Indian population in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina is home to eight American Indian tribes: the Coharie, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Nation, the Haliwa-Saponi, the Lumbee, the Meherrin, the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, the Sappony, and the Waccamaw-Siouan; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has a long-standing and historic government-to-government relationship with American Indian tribes, protecting and advocating for the sovereign rights of tribes; and

WHEREAS, American Indian culture and society are at the roots of agricultural development, medicinal discoveries, environmental preservation, commerce and trade, governmental institutions and structure, and many other facets of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, across the state, American Indian tribes and communities continue to celebrate American Indian culture and heritage through songs, dances, arts, crafts, and spirituality – while exercising sovereignty in tribal governance and continuing to contribute to North Carolina's growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, each year, in November, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, jointly with the North Carolina Museum of History, conduct an American Indian Heritage Celebration which celebrates the history, culture and contributions of American Indians; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 20th anniversary of North Carolina's annual American Indian Heritage Celebration – a tribal and joint-agency commemorative event that celebrates American Indian Heritage in North Carolina, builds awareness of our rich American Indian history and culture by engaging children and adults in educational activities, and features traditional and contemporary crafts, demonstrations, hands-on family activities, cultural performances, and American Indian foods; and

WHEREAS, *Preserving, Living, and Sharing our Proud American Indian Heritage* is the 2015 theme of American Indian Heritage Month in North Carolina, which celebrates and commemorates the rich heritage shared by North Carolina's American Indians;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PAT McCRORY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 2015, in recognition of "AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this fourteenth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen, and the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.




Pat McCrory
Governor