

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 62

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

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

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

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

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

25 (5) Native Americans have made distinct and
26 significant contributions to the United States and

1 the rest of the world in many fields, including agri-
2 culture, medicine, music, language, and art, and Na-
3 tive Americans have distinguished themselves as in-
4 ventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and schol-
5 ars;

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

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

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

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

1 (10) designation of Native American Heritage
 2 Day will encourage public elementary and secondary
 3 schools in the United States to enhance under-
 4 standing of Native Americans by providing curricula
 5 and classroom instruction focusing on the achieve-
 6 ments and contributions of Native Americans to the
 7 Nation; and

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

12 **SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIVE AMERICAN HERIT-**
 13 **AGE DAY.**

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

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

24 (2) the cultures, traditions, and languages of
 25 Native Americans; and

1 (3) the rich Native American cultural legacy
2 that all Americans enjoy today.

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

 Passed the House of Representatives November 13,
2007.

Attest:

Clerk.

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