

**APPROVED**  
**OCT 14 1976**

*8/10/14/76*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
October 9, 1976

ACTION  
Last Day: October 23

*Posted 10/15  
To ARCHIVES  
10/15*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: JIM CANNON *J.C. Cannon*  
SUBJECT: S.J. Res. 209 - Native American Awareness Week

Attached for your consideration is S.J. Res. 209, sponsored by Senator Bentsen.

The enrolled resolution authorizes and requests you to proclaim the week of October 10 through October 16, 1976 as "Native American Awareness Week".

You signed a proclamation designating the week of October 10 through October 16 as "Native American Awareness Week" in Oklahoma on Friday, October 8.

OMB's bill report is attached at Tab A.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign S.J. Res. 209 at Tab B.



>PC<



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

OCT 8 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Resolution S. J. Res. 209 -  
Native American Awareness Week  
Sponsor - Sen. Bentsen (D) Texas

Last Day for Action

*October 23, 1976.*

Purpose

Authorizes and requests the President to proclaim the week of October 10 through October 16, 1976 as "Native American Awareness Week."

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval
Department of the Interior	Approval (Informally)
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare	Defers to Interior (Informally)

Discussion

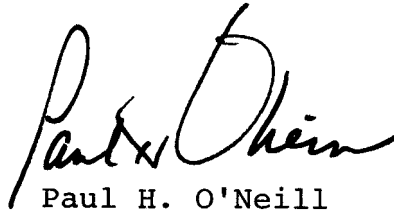
S. J. Res. 209 authorizes and requests the President to issue a proclamation designating the week of October 10 through October 16, 1976, as "Native American Awareness Week" and calling upon the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In reporting on this legislation, the Department of the Interior noted:

"Designation of Native American Awareness Week by the Congress would provide national recognition for a group of

Americans whose contributions,  
culture, and heritage are an  
intrinsic part of this country."

A draft proclamation has already been forwarded to  
the White House.



Paul H. O'Neill  
Acting Director

Enclosures



## United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

OCT 8 - 1976

Dear Mr. Lynn:

This responds to your request for the views of this Department on the enrolled bill S.J. Res. 209, "Authorizing the President to proclaim the week of October 10 through 16, 1976, as 'Native American Awareness Week.'"

We strongly recommend that the President approve the enrolled bill.

As enrolled, S.J. Res. 209 would authorize the President to issue a proclamation designating the week of October 10 through 16, 1976, as "Native American Awareness Week," and to call upon the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Such action by the President would provide National recognition for a group of Americans whose contributions, culture, and heritage are an intrinsic part of this country. There have been many efforts to promote a National Indian Day or a Native American Awareness Week, and some States and cities now have such observances.

Efforts to establish the observance of a day or week in honor of American Indians have been made since the early part of this century. For example, on December 14, 1915, the President received the endorsements of 24 State governors to declare an American Indian Day each year.

The first American Indian Day was observed on the second Saturday in May 1916, when the Governor of New York fixed that day for a State observance. Several States celebrated the fourth Friday in September as American Indian Day. In Illinois, for example, it became that day by legislative enactment in 1919. In Massachusetts, in accordance with a law passed in 1935, the Governor issues a proclamation designating the day that will become American Indian Day for each year.

The Governor of Oklahoma recently proclaimed the week of October 10 through 16, 1976, as "Native American Awareness Week" in that State. On July 8, 1976, the Mayor of Los Angeles issued a similar proclamation



and called upon the citizens of the city to observe the week of October 10 through 16, 1976, "with appropriate ceremonies and activities." We understand that such observances will also be held this year in the cities of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, San Francisco, California, and Nassau Bay, Texas.

Indian contributions to American society, both in times of war and peace, have been largely overlooked by historians. It is not generally recognized that the patriotism shown by more than 8,000 Indian servicemen in World War I (the majority by voluntary enlistment) was one of the main factors which influenced the Congress to pass the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924.

In World War II more than 25,000 Indian men and women served in the Armed Forces, fighting on all fronts in Europe and Asia and winning (according to an incomplete count) 71 awards of the Air Medal, 51 of the Silver Star, 47 of the Bronze Star, 34 of the Distinguished Flying Cross, and two of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

One of the better known Indian exploits was that of the Navajo Marines who used the Navajo language as a battlefield code which the Japanese could not break. The Navajo "code talkers" were recent participants in the July 3, 1976, Bicentennial Parade in Washington, D.C.

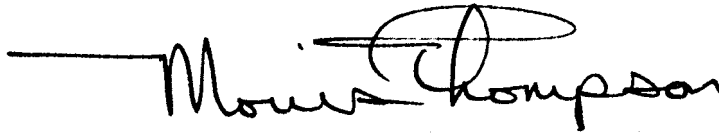
Lesser known contributions of Indian people include, among others, active participation in the Revolutionary War between 1777 and 1784 by members of the Passamaquoddy tribe. This military contribution was recently recognized by the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, in Passamaquoddy, et al. v. Morton, et al., 388 F. Supp. 649. 667 (D. Me. 1975).

The form of the government of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy set a major example for the American people during the time of the creation of our own government. The working example of such a "confederacy," where tribes elected a headman or chief who was, individually, their master, and collectively, their servant, contributed to the American adoption of government with the consent of the governed.

The reverence of Indian people for the land and environment pre-dated and served as an example for the growing national concern for conservation of natural resources which evolved into a nationwide movement for ecology and environmental protection.

It is most fitting and appropriate in this year of our Bicentennial celebration to proclaim recognition for American Indians for their achievements as citizens of this Nation and their important contributions to the social and cultural history of our country. Accordingly, we strongly urge Presidential approval of S.J. Res. 209.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mowbray Thompson". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Honorable James T. Lynn  
Director, Office of  
Management and Budget  
Washington, D.C.

Enclosures

NATIVE AMERICAN AWARENESS WEEK

PROCLAMATION ----- OCTOBER \_\_\_\_, 1976

By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation:

In this year of our Bicentennial we have in many ways expressed our pride in the heritage which our forebears have bequeathed to us. A vital part of our heritage is the cultural and spiritual contributions of our First Americans. However, these contributions have never been fully understood by historians nor given full recognition by Americans generally.

Indian contributions to American society have been evident both in times of war and peace. It is not generally recognized that the patriotism shown by more than 8000 Indian servicemen in World War I (the majority by voluntary enlistment) was an influential factor in persuading Congress to pass the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924.

One of the better known Indian exploits in World War II was that of the Navajo Marines who used the Navajo language as a battlefield code which the Japanese could not break. The Navajo "code talkers" were recent participants in the July 3, 1976, Bicentennial Parade in Washington, D. C.

The form of government of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy set a major example for the American people during the time of the creation of our own government. The working example of such a "confederacy," where tribes selected a headman or chief who was, individually, their master, and collectively, their servant, contributed to the American adoption of government with the consent of the governed.

The reverence of Indian people for the land and environment pre-dated and served as an example for the growing concern for conservation of natural resources which later evolved into a nationwide movement for ecology and environmental protection.

Many of our cities and States have already taken the initiative to declare that the week of October 10 through 16, 1976, as "Native American Awareness Week."

The Congress, by a joint resolution of October \_\_, 1976 (90 Stat. \_\_), has requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the week of October 10 through 16, 1976, as Native American Awareness Week, and calling for its appropriate observance.

Now therefore, I, Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of October 10 through 16, 1976, as "Native American Awareness Week" and call upon the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this \_\_ day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.



NATIVE AMERICAN AWARENESS WEEK

PROCLAMATION ----- OCTOBER , 1976

By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation:

The Native American or American Indian people have a special and unique history and relationship to the United States and it is fitting that in this Bicentennial year of our Nation that the Congress, by a joint resolution of October\_\_, 1976 (90 Stat.\_\_\_\_), has requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the week of October 10 through 16, 1976, as Native American Awareness Week, calling for its appropriate observance and declaring that --

"Whereas native American people, both on and off the reservations, are receiving too little recognition for their contributions to society;

Whereas to the extent there has been oppression of all Indian tribes and people, many non-Indians have lost or have never fully understood the true image of the native American;

Whereas there is a strong and renewed interest in the self-preservation of all aspects of Indian culture and heritage;

Whereas there is urgency to promote a unified effort of all for the common good, and to bring about a more wholesome relationship among native Americans;

Whereas the native American population is working for a better future, for a revival of participation in the tribal affairs, and for a revival of moral support for the tribal councils;

Whereas the opportunity exists for an improved understanding regarding how the peoples' needs and desires are reflected in the programs and policies of the tribal governments and Federal agencies;

Whereas the native American communities are voicing greater self-expression and exposure of their value to surrounding communities, and are taking a more active role in the use and development of their skills and resources;

Whereas the native American people made significant historical contributions to the welfare and survival of early pioneers and explorers who ultimately founded the Republic of the United States of America:"

Now, Therefore, I, Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of October 10 through 16 as Native American Awareness Week and call upon the people of the United States to observe that week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this \_\_\_ day of  
October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and  
of the Independence of the United States of America the two  
hundred and first.

# Ninety-fourth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the nineteenth day of January,  
one thousand nine hundred and seventy-six*

## Joint Resolution

Authorizing the President to proclaim the week of October 10 through 16, 1976,  
as "Native American Awareness Week".

Whereas native American people, both on and off the reservations, are receiving too little recognition for their contributions to society;  
Whereas to the extent there has been oppression of all Indian tribes and people, many non-Indians have lost or have never fully understood the true image of the native American;  
Whereas there is a strong and renewed interest in the self-preservation of all aspects of Indian culture and heritage;  
Whereas there is urgency to promote a unified effort of all for the common good, and to bring about a more wholesome relationship among native Americans;  
Whereas the native American population is working for a better future, for a revival of participation in the tribal affairs, and for a revival of moral support for the tribal councils;  
Whereas the opportunity exists for an improved understanding regarding how the peoples' needs and desires are reflected in the programs and policies of the tribal governments and Federal agencies;  
Whereas the native American communities are voicing greater self-expression and exposure of their values to surrounding communities, and are taking a more active role in the use and development of their skills and resources;  
Whereas the native American people made significant historical contributions to the welfare and survival of early pioneers and explorers who ultimately founded the Republic of the United States of America: Now, therefore be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States is hereby authorized and directed to issue a proclamation designating the week of October 10 through 16, 1976, as "Native American Awareness Week", and calling upon the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.*

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

*Vice President of the United States and  
President of the Senate.*