



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

- WHEREAS: The history and culture of our great nation have been significantly influenced by American Indians and indigenous peoples. Their contributions have enhanced the freedom, prosperity, and greatness of America today as their customs and traditions are both respected and celebrated as part of a rich legacy throughout the United States; and
- WHEREAS: Before the first Europeans arrived in what is now the State of Georgia, thousands of Native Americans thrived on Georgia's fertile soil and many waterways in dozens of highly complex communities. Many tribes, including the Cherokee, Creek, Savannah, Timucua, Westo, Yamasee, Oconee, Seminole and Yuchi peoples, have lived in our state and made significant contributions to the betterment of our society; and
- WHEREAS: Native Americans are a diverse group with a rich and multifaceted system of governments, languages, religions, values and traditions. During the month of November, our nation celebrates the culture and contributions of the first Americans; and
- WHEREAS: Native American Awareness Week began in 1976 and recognition was expanded by Congress and approved by President George H.W. Bush in 1990, designating the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month; and
- WHEREAS: In honor of American Indian Heritage Month, community celebrations as well as numerous cultural, artistic, educational and historical activities will take place all across Georgia; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 2016 as AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH in Georgia to honor the unique heritage of a distinctive people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 19th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.



Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley
CHIEF OF STAFF