



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

- WHEREAS: American Indians and the indigenous peoples of North America have significantly influenced the history and culture of our great nation. Their contributions have enhanced the freedom, prosperity, and greatness America continues to enjoy 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, Oconee, Savannah, Seminole, Timucua, Westo, Yamasee, and Yuchi peoples, have lived in our state and made meaningful contributions to improve 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 state and nation celebrate the culture and contributions of the first Americans; and
- WHEREAS: Native American Awareness Week was introduced in 1976, and subsequently expanded by Congress and approved by President George H.W. Bush in 1990, thereby 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 across Georgia; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 2017 as AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 17th day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF