

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, inhabiting this state for thousands of years, Native American Indians shared their knowledge of the land and its resources with the first immigrants to our country and have played a vital role in the freedom, prosperity, and greatness of the Palmetto State and the American way of life; and

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

WHEREAS, many of our state's residents are of Native American Indian heritage from various tribes that were indigenous to our state or as descendants of Native American Indians throughout the western hemisphere who relocated in the Palmetto State; and

WHEREAS, currently, the Catawba Indian Nation is a federally recognized tribe, while the State of South Carolina has recognized nine tribes, the Beaver Creek Indians, the Edisto-Natchez-Kusso Tribe of SC, the Piedmont American Indian Association - Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation of SC, the Pee Dee Nation of Upper SC, the Pee Dee Indian Tribe of SC, the Santee Indian Organization, the Sumter Tribe of Cheraw Indians, the Waccamaw Indian People, and the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians; four groups, the Chaloklowa Chickasaw Indian People, the Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes of SC, the Natchez Indian Tribe, and the Pee Dee Indian Tribe of Beaver Creek, and two special interest organizations, the American Indian Chamber of Commerce and the Little Horse Creek American Indian Cultural Center; and

WHEREAS, continuing to maintain their history, culture, lifestyles, and unique heritage, Native American Indians have served with valor and distinction in wartime, and their artistic, entrepreneurial, and other skills have truly enriched our heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 2017 as

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to remember the many contributions made by Native American Indians in the Palmetto State and across the nation throughout the month, with November 18th being South Carolina's Native American Heritage Day, and to honor the unique heritage of our continent's first inhabitants.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry McMaster".

HENRY MCMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA