

November is National American Indian/Alaskan Native Heritage Month



A Brief History of American Indian Heritage Month

Source: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs

One of the early proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian who was the Director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, New York. In 1915, at the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, a plan celebrating American Indian Day was formally approved. The Association directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to set aside a day of recognition. Rev. Coolidge issued a proclamation on September 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of May as American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of American Indians as citizens.

In 1990 President George Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990, as "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations have been issued each year since 1994.

President Obama hosts first White House Tribal Nations Conference and signs Memorandum of Understanding



President Barack Obama signed a presidential memorandum to all heads of executive departments and agencies establishing "regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration" between tribal nations and the Federal Government on November 5, 2009, during the first White House Tribal Nations Conference. About 400 Tribal leaders from Federally recognized tribes participated in the conference.

American Indian Federal Appointees



Larry Echo Hawk
(Pawnee)
Interior Assistant
Secretary for Indian
Affairs



Kim Teehee
(Cherokee)
White House Senior
Policy Adviser for
Native American
Affairs



Jodi Gillette
(Standing Rock Sioux)
White House Associate
Director of
Intergovernmental Affairs



Yvette Roubideaux
(Rosebud Sioux)
Indian Health Service
Director

