



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH**

**2017**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, American Indians are the original inhabitants of North Carolina, having lived here for more than 12,000 years; today, there are more than 122,000 North Carolina individuals who identify as American Indian, giving our state the largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi River, and the eighth largest American Indian population in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina is home to eight American Indian tribes that are recognized by the state: the Coharie, the Eastern Band of Cherokee, the Haliwa-Saponi, the Lumbee, the Meherrin, the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, the Sappony, and the Waccamaw-Siouan; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indian tribes have a rich and ongoing history of government-to-government relations with the State of North Carolina, a mutual honoring and protection of the sovereign rights of our tribes, and advocacy for American Indian citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, as North Carolinians, we pride ourselves on our state's rich and diverse culture, traditions, and history, and acknowledge the important contributions of American Indian people; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, the North Carolina Museum of History, and our state's American Indian tribes and organizations collaborate to produce American Indian Heritage Month activities to educate the public about our tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indian Heritage Month increases public awareness of the unique challenges faced by American Indians both historically and today, and recognizes the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to overcome these challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme of North Carolina's 2017 American Indian Heritage Month is Telling Our Stories, which celebrates and commemorates the history, culture, and contributions of American Indians in our state; and

**WHEREAS**, through Telling Our Stories, we answer an ancestral calling – a passing on of customs, history, and heritage – and explore oral traditions, learning the importance of old wisdom to contemporary tribal life, and preserving American Indian culture and heritage for future generations to come;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER**, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim November, 2017, as **"AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH"** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fifth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.