

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To honor and recognize November 2021 as “National Native American Heritage Month” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, the history of the United States of America often ignores Native Americans who were the original inhabitants, explorers, and settlers of the United States;

WHEREAS, Native Americans have made and continue to make contributions to American society in areas that include agriculture, medicine, art, literature, and culture;

WHEREAS, the history of the District of Columbia is also the history of the Anacostan, or Nacotchtank peoples;

WHEREAS, the Anacostan people lived, farmed, fished, hunted, and quarried for thousands of years in locations that today are occupied by the White House, the Library of Congress, Navy Yard, Georgetown University, and Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling;

WHEREAS, in the early 1600s, the Anacostan people numbered approximately 300 members and lived in villages along the eastern banks of the modern-day Anacostia River;

WHEREAS, seventy-five percent of Native American people in the area that is currently metropolitan Washington were killed or displaced within only 40 years of first contact with Europeans in 1608;

33 WHEREAS, many of the Anacostans and other local Native Americans died from
34 diseases introduced by Europeans, were killed in wars, were forced to abandon their land and
35 merge with other tribes, or were sold into slavery;

36 WHEREAS, members of the Anacostan tribe merged with the Piscataway tribe of what is
37 now Southern Maryland;

38 WHEREAS, members of the Piscataway tribe still live in the region and have established
39 governance structures and avenues for cultural expression, including efforts to maintain
40 storytelling and other oral traditions;

41 WHEREAS, today, according to the United States Census Bureau, an estimated 3,193
42 Native Americans currently live in the District of Columbia, contributing to the city's cultural
43 vibrancy; and

44 WHEREAS, tribes from the Washington region and across the country continue to fight
45 for their rights, their lands, and their culture in order to protect and honor their rich heritage.

46 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
47 resolution may be cited as the "National Native American Heritage Month Recognition
48 Resolution of 2021".

49 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia honors and recognizes the significance of
50 Native Americans, their history, and their culture in the District of Columbia and declares
51 November 2021 as "National Native American Heritage Month".

52 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
53 the District of Columbia Register.