

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 seven tribes, the Beaver Creek Indians, the Edisto-Natchez-Kusso Tribe, the Pee Dee Indian Nation of Upper SC, the Pee Dee Indian Tribe of SC, the Santee Indian Organization, the Waccamaw Indian People and the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians; five groups, the Chaloklowa Chickasaw Indian People of SC, the Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes, the Natchez Indian Tribe, the Pee Dee Indian Nation of Beaver Creek and the Piedmont American Indian Association - Lower Eastern Cherokee; 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, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 2011 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 and to honor the unique heritage of our continent's first inhabitants.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nikki R. Haley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA