

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. J. RES. 40

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## JOINT RESOLUTION

To honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes.

1        *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2        *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3        **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4        This Act may be cited as the “Native American Her-  
5        itage Day Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) Native Americans are the descendants of  
4 the aboriginal, indigenous, native people who were  
5 the original inhabitants of and who governed the  
6 lands that now constitute the United States;

7 (2) Native Americans have volunteered to serve  
8 in the United States Armed Forces and have served  
9 with valor in all of the Nation’s military actions  
10 from the Revolutionary War through the present  
11 day, and in most of those actions, more Native  
12 Americans per capita served in the Armed Forces  
13 than any other group of Americans;

14 (3) Native American tribal governments in-  
15 cluded the fundamental principles of freedom of  
16 speech and separation of governmental powers;

17 (4) Native Americans have made distinct and  
18 significant contributions to the United States and  
19 the rest of the world in many fields, including agri-  
20 culture, medicine, music, language, and art, and Na-  
21 tive Americans have distinguished themselves as in-  
22 ventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and schol-  
23 ars;

24 (5) Native Americans should be recognized for  
25 their contributions to the United States as local and  
26 national leaders, artists, athletes, and scholars;

1           (6) nationwide recognition of the contributions  
2 that Native Americans have made to the fabric of  
3 American society will afford an opportunity for all  
4 Americans to demonstrate their respect and admira-  
5 tion of Native Americans for their important con-  
6 tributions to the political, cultural, and economic life  
7 of the United States;

8           (7) nationwide recognition of the contributions  
9 that Native Americans have made to the Nation will  
10 encourage self-esteem, pride, and self-awareness in  
11 Native Americans of all ages;

12           (8) designation of the Friday following Thanks-  
13 giving of each year as Native American Heritage  
14 Day will underscore the government-to-government  
15 relationship between the United States and Native  
16 American governments;

17           (9) designation of Native American Heritage  
18 Day will encourage public elementary and secondary  
19 schools in the United States to enhance under-  
20 standing of Native Americans by providing curricula  
21 and classroom instruction focusing on the achieve-  
22 ments and contributions of Native Americans to the  
23 Nation; and

24           (10) the Friday immediately succeeding  
25 Thanksgiving Day of each year would be an appro-





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