

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5652

To designate a paid legal public holiday in honor of Native Americans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 16, 2002

Mr. BACA (for himself, Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma, and Mr. KILDEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To designate a paid legal public holiday in honor of Native Americans.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Native Americans were the original inhab-
6 itants of the land that now constitutes the United
7 States.

8 (2) Native American tribal governments devel-
9 oped the fundamental principles of freedom of

1 speech and separation of powers that form the foun-
2 dation of the United States Government.

3 (3) Native Americans have traditionally exhib-
4 ited respect for our finite natural resources through
5 a deep reverence for the Earth.

6 (4) Native Americans have served with valor in
7 all of the Nation's wars beginning with the Revolu-
8 tionary War through the present day, and often the
9 percentage of Native American Indians who served
10 exceeded significantly the percentage of Americans
11 in the population of the United States as a whole,
12 showing the disproportionate commitment of Native
13 Americans to the Nation.

14 (5) Native Americans have made distinct and
15 important contributions to the United States and
16 the rest of the world in many fields, including agri-
17 culture, medicine, music, language, art, and as in-
18 ventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and schol-
19 ars.

20 (6) Native Americans deserve to be recognized
21 for their individual contributions to the United
22 States as local and national leaders, artists, athletes,
23 and scholars.

24 (7) This recognition will encourage self-esteem,
25 pride, and self-awareness in Native Americans of all

1 ages about the significant role their ancestors and
2 heritage played in the formation of the freest coun-
3 try in the world, the United States.

4 (8) This recognition will allow all Americans of
5 whatever background to show respect and admira-
6 tion to Native Americans for their important con-
7 tributions to the political, cultural, and economic life
8 of the United States and the richness of its cultural
9 fabric.

10 (9) Bringing about a legal public holiday for
11 Native Americans will show a strong united govern-
12 ment-to-government relationship between each of the
13 Native American Nations and the Federal Govern-
14 ment.

15 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN'S DAY.**

16 Congress requests that__

17 (1) the President issue a proclamation desig-
18 nating a paid legal public holiday as “Native Ameri-
19 can’s Day”; and

20 (2) Federal, State, and local governments, in-
21 terested groups and organizations, and the people of
22 the United States to observe Native American’s Day
23 with programs, appropriate ceremonies, and activi-
24 ties.

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