



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH**

**2018**

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

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina's American Indian Heritage Month marks a special time to honor and celebrate the history of American Indian people in our state, who have lived in the geographic area of North Carolina for more than 12,000 years; and

**WHEREAS**, today, there are more than 122,000 North Carolinians who identify as American Indian, representing 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 state-recognized Indian tribes: 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**, our state is also home to four Urban Indian Organizations that hold membership on the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs: the Cumberland County Association for Indian People, the Guilford Native American Association, the Metrolina Native American Association, and the Triangle Native American Society; 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 that serves to protect the sovereign rights of our tribes and promote advocacy for American Indian people; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, the North Carolina Museum of History, and North Carolina's Indian Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations collaborate to develop American Indian Heritage Month celebrations each year, increasing awareness of American Indian history and related current issues; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina's 2018 American Indian Heritage Month theme, *Sacred Places: Gifts of Our Land*, promotes education and understanding about American Indian history and culture, and the many contributions of the American Indian community to our state; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina encourages people to learn more about the sacred places important to American Indian culture in our state and commit to preserve American Indian heritage and traditions for generations to come;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER**, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim November, 2018, as **"AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH"** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



**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 ninth day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.