

SRES 400 IS

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S. RES. 400

To designate Friday, November 23, 2007, as 'Native American Heritage Day' in honor of the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

December 11, 2007

Mr. INOUE (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. TESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

To designate Friday, November 23, 2007, as 'Native American Heritage Day' in honor of the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

Whereas Native Americans are the descendants of the aboriginal, indigenous, native people who were the original inhabitants of and who governed the lands that now constitute the United States;

Whereas Native Americans have volunteered to serve in the United States Armed Forces and have served with valor in all of the Nation's military actions from the Revolutionary War through the present day, and in most of those actions, more Native Americans per capita served in the Armed Forces than any other group of Americans;

Whereas Native American tribal governments developed the fundamental principles of freedom of speech and separation of governmental powers that were a model for those that form the foundation of the United States Constitution;

Whereas the Founding Fathers based the provisions of the Constitution on the unique system of democracy of the Six Nations of the Iroquois

Confederacy, which divided powers among the branches of government and provided for a system of checks and balances;

Whereas Native Americans have made distinct and significant contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art, and Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;

Whereas Native Americans should be recognized for their contributions to the United States as local and national leaders, artists, athletes, and scholars;

Whereas nationwide recognition of the contributions that Native Americans have made to the fabric of American society will afford an opportunity for all Americans to demonstrate their respect and admiration of Native Americans for their important contributions to the political, cultural, and economic life of the United States;

Whereas nationwide recognition of the contributions that Native Americans have made to the Nation will encourage self-esteem, pride, and self-awareness in Native Americans of all ages;

Whereas designation of the Friday following Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day will underscore the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and

Whereas designation of Native American Heritage Day will encourage public elementary and secondary schools in the United States to enhance understanding of Native Americans by providing curricula and classroom instruction focusing on the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Senate--

(1) designates Friday, November 23, 2007, as 'Native American Heritage Day'; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States, as well as Federal, State, and local governments and interested groups and organizations to observe Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, including activities related to--

- (A) the historical and constitutional status of Native American tribal governments as well as the present day status of Native Americans;
- (B) the cultures, traditions, and languages of Native Americans; and
- (C) the rich Native American cultural legacy that all Americans enjoy today.