



For Immediate Release

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY OF 2009

The Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest applaud all Congressmen and Congresswomen of the United States for the passage of the Native American Heritage Day, one day after Thanksgiving.

Native Americans are also grateful to Congressman Joe Baca from Rialto, California for this persistence to designate the Friday after Thanksgiving as a Native American Day, a significant event for Indian Country.

President Obama signed the Heritage Day Act into public law No:111-33 on June 26, 2009. Thank you, Mr. President!

Native people are excited beginning this year 2009 as we celebrate and observe Friday, November 27, 2009, on day after Thanksgiving. We encourage Americans of all backgrounds to join in Indian appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities, Federal, State, and Local governments, organizations, we welcome you.

This historical event will help future societies, elementary and secondary schools reveal our role as the first indigenous people to this beautiful country, we now call American the Beautiful!

We are a proud people, a sovereign nation, with nation treaties that co-exist with the United States government for centuries and are still in effect and will be forever. ATNI's goal for this day is to designate this day as a federal, state and county recognized day.

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, National Indian Gaming Association, National Congress of American Indians Organization, who moved forward the recognition of this important day since September 17, 2001, where it again, gave us persistence to go on resolutely, in spite of the difficulties we had. Struggles are not new to us.

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