

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-204

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 19, 2019

To honor and recognize November 2019 as “Native American Indian Heritage Month” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, the history of the United States of America often ignores Native American Indians who were the original inhabitants, explorers, and settlers of the United States;

WHEREAS, Native Americans have made historical and modern contributions to American society that endure to this day in areas that include agriculture, medicine, art, literature, and culture;

WHEREAS, the history of the District of Columbia is also the history of the Anacostan, or Nacotchtank, people of the Piscataway tribe;

WHEREAS, the Anacostan people, lived, farmed, fished, hunted, and quarried for thousands of years in locations that today are occupied by the White House, the Library of Congress, and Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling;

WHEREAS, in the early 1600s, the Anacostan people numbered approximately 300 members and lived in villages along the eastern banks of the modern-day Anacostia River;

WHEREAS, seventy-five percent of the American Indian population in the area that is currently metropolitan Washington was killed or displaced after only 40 years of contact with the Europeans which first occurred in 1608;

WHEREAS, many of the Anacostans and other local American Indians died from diseases introduced by the Europeans, were killed in wars, were forced to abandon their land and merge with other tribes, or were sold into slavery;

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

WHEREAS, today, an estimated 4,163 American Indians live in present-day Washington, D.C. contributing to the cultural vibrancy of the District of Columbia.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That the Council honors and recognizes the significance of Native Americans, their history, and their culture in the District of Columbia and declares November 2019 as “Native American Indian Heritage Month.”

Sec. 2. This resolution may be cited as the “Native American Indian Heritage Month Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.