

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3585

To honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

Mr. BACA (for himself, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. REYES, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SIRES, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. FILNER, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MITCHELL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. SHULER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. LEE, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. KIND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Native American Her-  
5 itage Day Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) Native Americans are the descendants of  
4 the aboriginal, indigenous, native people who were  
5 the original inhabitants of and who governed the  
6 lands that now constitute the United States;

7 (2) Native Americans have volunteered to serve  
8 in the United States Armed Forces and have served  
9 with valor in all of the Nation’s military actions  
10 from the Revolutionary War through the present  
11 day, and in most of those actions, more Native  
12 Americans per capita served in the Armed Forces  
13 than any other group of Americans;

14 (3) Native American tribal governments devel-  
15 oped the fundamental principles of freedom of  
16 speech and separation of governmental powers that  
17 were a model for those that form the foundation of  
18 the United States Constitution;

19 (4) the Founding Fathers based the provisions  
20 of the Constitution on the unique system of democ-  
21 racy of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy,  
22 which divided powers among the branches of govern-  
23 ment and provided for a system of checks and bal-  
24 ances;

25 (5) Native Americans have made distinct and  
26 significant contributions to the United States and

1 the rest of the world in many fields, including agri-  
2 culture, medicine, music, language, and art, and Na-  
3 tive Americans have distinguished themselves as in-  
4 ventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and schol-  
5 ars;

6 (6) Native Americans should be recognized for  
7 their contributions to the United States as local and  
8 national leaders, artists, athletes, and scholars;

9 (7) nationwide recognition of the contributions  
10 that Native Americans have made to the fabric of  
11 American society will afford an opportunity for all  
12 Americans to demonstrate their respect and admira-  
13 tion of Native Americans for their important con-  
14 tributions to the political, cultural, and economic life  
15 of the United States;

16 (8) nationwide recognition of the contributions  
17 that Native Americans have made to the Nation will  
18 encourage self-esteem, pride, and self-awareness in  
19 Native Americans of all ages;

20 (9) designation of the Friday following Thanks-  
21 giving of each year as Native American Heritage  
22 Day will underscore the government-to-government  
23 relationship between the United States and Native  
24 American governments;

1           (10) designation of Native American Heritage  
2 Day will encourage public elementary and secondary  
3 schools in the United States to enhance under-  
4 standing of Native Americans by providing curricula  
5 and classroom instruction focusing on the achieve-  
6 ments and contributions of Native Americans to the  
7 Nation; and

8           (11) the Friday immediately succeeding  
9 Thanksgiving Day of each year would be an appro-  
10 priate day to designate as Native American Heritage  
11 Day.

12 **SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIVE AMERICAN HERIT-**  
13 **AGE DAY.**

14           (a) DEVELOPMENT OF MODEL EDUCATIONAL CUR-  
15 RICULA.—Educational institutions are encouraged to de-  
16 velop model educational curricula, in consultation with  
17 Native American governmental leaders, for purposes of  
18 recognizing a Native American Heritage Day, emphasizing  
19 the contributions of Native Americans to the United  
20 States and the world, including—

21           (1) the historical and constitutional status of  
22 Native American tribal governments as well as the  
23 present day status of Native Americans;

24           (2) the cultures, traditions, and languages of  
25 Native Americans; and

1           (3) the rich Native American cultural legacy  
2           that all Americans enjoy today.

3           (b) CELEBRATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE  
4 DAY.—Congress encourages the people of the United  
5 States, as well as Federal, State, and local governments  
6 and interested groups and organizations to observe a Na-  
7 tive American Heritage Day with appropriate programs,  
8 ceremonies, and activities.

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