



Rebuilding
Communities
Through Indian
Self-Reliance

Media Release

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THE NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING ASSOCIATION APPLAUDES HOUSE FOR PASSAGE OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY BILL

WASHINGTON, DC – June 2, 2009, 2008 – The National Indian Gaming Association applauded the United States House of Representatives today for passing “The Native American Heritage Day Resolution 2009,” (H.J. Res. 40), supported by NIGA, the National Congress of American Indians, and other national Indian Organizations.

The Resolution designates Friday, November 26, 2009, as “Native American Heritage Day.” This will be a day to pay tribute to Native Americans for their many contributions to formation of the United States. The Resolution was introduced by Congressman Joe Baca (D-CA 43rd) and now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Chairman Stevens said, “I am profoundly grateful for the generations of dedicated tribal leaders who fought, despite many severe challenges, to maintain, strengthen and rebuild a way of life that was almost taken from us. The House passage of this Resolution will bring attention to those actions that nearly wiped out our Native Communities as a whole.”

“Further, this is a step towards setting the stage for the educational awareness of the Native American story, which is a proud account of perseverance, achievements and is a chronicle of the important contributions to the creation of this great Nation’s governmental framework. Native America’s continued dedication to defending this Country in every major battle by service in the United States Military, at a higher per capita rate than any other group in America, is just one example of those contributions.”

Stevens concluded, “On behalf of NIGA and its 184 member Tribes I want to thank Representative Baca and all of the Congressional leadership for their support in the passage of this Resolution through the House, and the continued support that will move this bill through to law. This

day of recognition will provide a mechanism that further strengthens and acknowledges the uniqueness of the government to government relationship of this Country and America's First People."

The Native American Heritage Day Act 2009 will:

- Designate Friday, November 26, 2009, as Native American Heritage Day
- Encourage the people of the United States, as well as federal, state and local governments and interested groups and organizations, to observe such day with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities, including activities related to:
 - The historical status of Native American tribal governments as well as the present day status of Native Americans;
 - Native American cultures, traditions and languages; and
 - The rich Native American cultural legacy

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About the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA)

The National Indian Gaming Association is a nonprofit trade association comprised of 184 American Indian Nations and other nonvoting associate member. The mission of NIGA is to advance the lives of Indian people – economically, socially and politically. NIGA operates as a clearinghouse and educational legislative and public policy resources for tribes, policymakers and the public on Indian gaming issues and tribal community development. For more information, visit www.indiangaming.org.