

**NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
P R O C L A M A T I O N**

WHEREAS, National Native American Heritage Month is observed across the United States each November to recognize the rich histories, vibrant cultures, and enduring contributions of the many Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples who are the original inhabitants of this land and whose descendants continue to shape and strengthen our communities and nations; and

WHEREAS, The movement to formally recognize Native American heritage began over a century ago, with the first state-sanctioned "American Indian Day" declared on May 6, 1916, in New York. National awareness grew in 1976 when President Gerard Ford proclaimed the first "Native American Awareness Week." In 1990, President H.W. Bush signed a joint resolution into law establishing November as National Native American Heritage Month, ensuring this essential recognition would become part of our national fabric; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans have demonstrated extraordinary service, sacrifice, and strength throughout history, including the 44,000 Native men and women who served during World War II. Among them, Navajo, Cherokee, Comanche, and Choctaw code talkers used their Indigenous languages to transmit unbreakable battlefield communications - contributions that were instrumental to Allied victory and remain a symbol of resilience and patriotism; and

WHEREAS, Native communities continue to thrive, innovate, and lead in fields, such as environmental stewardship, public policy, science, the arts, education, and more. Indigenous knowledge systems have long promoted sustainability, community wellness, and deep respect for the natural world. Native peoples remain steadfast in their efforts to protect their sovereignty, preserve their cultures, and advocate for justice and equity; and

WHEREAS, The City of Redmond honors the enduring relationship between Tribal Nations and this land, and recognizes that understanding and acknowledging the past and present injustices is essential to building a future rooted in mutual respect, shared prosperity, and true partnership;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANGELA BIRNEY, Mayor of the City of Redmond, Washington, do hereby proclaim November 2025 as

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Angela Birney, Mayor
November 2025