

Proclamation

WHEREAS, November is the officially recognized month to celebrate and commemorate the heritage of American Indians. It is a time to honor the contributions, achievements, and sacrifices of America's first people, and a time to learn and celebrate the rich cultural and historical legacy of Native people; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans have inhabited the area now known as Washington State since time immemorial. Today, twenty-nine federally recognized Indian tribes, out-of-state tribes with treaty-reserved rights, and other tribal communities reside in Washington; and

WHEREAS, Tumwater Falls, where the Deschutes River enters Budd Inlet, was a ceremonial and sacred site of the Steh-chass people, ancestors of today's Squaxin Island Tribe. Their village on Budd Inlet below the falls and the river itself were both named Steh-chass. The Steh-chass fished and gathered seafood on Budd Inlet and nearby waterways and the area was a gathering place for the Steh-chass and nearby related tribes, including the Squaxin, Nisqually, Chehalis, and many other Salish Sea tribes and Indigenous Peoples; and

WHEREAS, as the first people to live on the land we all cherish, American Indians have profoundly shaped our country's character and our cultural heritage. Native people are leaders in every aspect of society. Their contributions and values have shaped the social, political, environmental, and economic fabric of our community while also enhancing freedom, prosperity, and cultural diversity; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to respecting each tribe's sovereignty and cultural identity, while ensuring equal opportunity for all, and continuing to work to strengthen our government-to-government relationships.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Debbie Sullivan, Mayor of the City of Tumwater, do hereby proclaim the month of

November 2023

American Indian Heritage Month

and I encourage people to celebrate the rich cultures of indigenous people, honor their sacrifices, acknowledge the unique challenges Native people face, historically and in the present, and recognize their continued significance in our community.

Signed in the City of Tumwater, Washington, and recognized on this 21st day of November in the year, two thousand twenty-three.



Debbie Sullivan
Mayor