

2015 RES-289

ESTABLISHING THE SECOND MONDAY IN OCTOBER AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY IN
DANE COUNTY

Indigenous Peoples Day began in commemoration of five hundred years of survival and renewal of native cultures in the face of political and cultural repression. The indigenous culture flourishing in Dane County since time immemorial was a sustainable, peaceful culture based on cooperation among neighbors and respect for the land and for all creatures living on it. This indigenous culture was disrupted and destroyed in Dane County, as in almost all parts of this hemisphere, and yet it has survived.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is the most archaeologically rich campus in the nation because it is built on sacred ground. Dane County is also the site of Camp Randall, which held the troops that led the final push to drive the indigenous people west of the Mississippi under then-President Abraham Lincoln. The oldest trees in Dane County, including the tree on top of Observatory Hill, which holds five effigy burial mounds (two are still visible) have, in their lifetime, seen the population in this area go from 100% indigenous people to 1% Native Americans.

South Dakota has celebrated "Native American Day" on the second Monday of October since 1990, and the Governor of Alaska recently renamed Columbus Day "Indigenous Peoples Day," joining a growing body of local governments from Albuquerque to Portland doing the same.

Locally, the Indigenous Peoples Day awareness celebration has brought greater understanding to the people of Dane County regarding native cultures and the enormous contributions they have made and continue to make to world culture and to Dane County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT that the Dane County Board of Supervisors declares the second Monday in October each year as Indigenous Peoples Day in Dane County.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors urges the Cultural Affairs Commission and other county agencies, boards, and commissions to include recognition of this day in all its publicly distributed materials and calendars, such as the yearly Dane Arts calendars.