

PROCLAIMING THE SECOND MONDAY OF OCTOBER AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples Day commemorates five hundred years of survival and renewal of native cultures in the face of political and cultural repression. Indigenous cultures once flourished in Dane County and established sustainable cultures based on cooperation among neighbors and respect for the land and for all living creatures. Indigenous cultures were disrupted and destroyed in Dane County, and yet with great resilience they have survived.

WHEREAS, The UW-Madison is the most archaeologically rich campus in the nation because it is built on indigenous sacred ground. Camp Randall held troops that participated in the attempts to drive American Indian nations west of the Mississippi. The oldest trees in Dane County, include the Burr Oaks on top of Observatory Hill, a hill which held five effigy burial mounds (two of which are still visible today). In the trees' lifespan, the population in this area transformed from a 100% indigenous society to a society with a 1% Native American population.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors does hereby affirm and proclaim that the second Monday of October will be Indigenous Peoples Day, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors does hereby offer its thanks and gratitude to the native people of this hemisphere on behalf of all of Dane County, in recognition of their care for this land and in honors of their cultures and ways of being, and urges all Dane County community members to observe the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day.