

# PROCLAMATION

## MISSOULA COUNTY AND THE CITY OF MISSOULA, MONTANA

**WHEREAS**, Indigenous Peoples strengthen our community through a perspective and understanding that is connected to culture and place since time immemorial; and

**WHEREAS**, Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, labor, technology, science, philosophy, art and cultural contributions have substantially shaped the character of Missoula and Montana; and

**WHEREAS**, Missoula County is located within the homelands of the Confederated Salish, Upper Kalispel and Kootenai Tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, in October 1891, the United States government forcefully removed the Salish people from their Bitterroot homeland and further imposed European concepts of land ownership by authorizing the appropriation of land within the boundaries of sovereign nations through the purchase by non-native people; and

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge the ongoing impacts of systemic racism and intergenerational trauma that has resulted from historical injustice directed toward Indigenous populations; and

**WHEREAS**, Missoula County continues to strengthen relationships with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, enhancing trust and understanding and developing policies and practices that will aid in closing equity gaps, and honor Indigenous roots and history in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indian Heritage Month was first proposed in 1990 by U.S. House Joint Resolution 577 (Pub. L. 101-343) and in 1991 by Congress Senate Joint Resolution 172 (Pub. L. 102-123); and

**WHEREAS**, President George H.W. Bush in 1991 issued Proclamation 6368 proclaiming November as "Native American Heritage Month," a tradition President Joe Biden continues; and

**WHEREAS**, in the words of President Biden, "Native American roots are deeply embedded in this land — a homeland loved, nurtured, strengthened and fought for with honor and conviction"; and

**WHEREAS**, this proclamation serves as a reminder of the commitment by Missoula County to honor its relationship with sovereign nations and Indigenous Peoples and to uphold trust and treaty responsibilities.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** we, Missoula County and the City of Missoula, do hereby proclaim November as:

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

to value the history and rich cultures of Indigenous Peoples as we recognize their pride, resilience, determination and patriotism for this country.

**DATED THIS 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022**

CITY OF MISSOULA

  
3E02A317641644A6779DA0F42E61374  
Jordan Hess, Mayor

COUNTY OF MISSOULA

  
6E45D36DCC41E9C2B2D512DC93A576B2  
Juanita Vero, Chair

  
33FD51ED69FA2244FFA409545EBDD56F  
Josh Slotnick, Commissioner

  
A6ACE981F2605A3A08967F7EBBB8C312  
David Strohmaier, Commissioner

