

# PROCLAMATION

## “NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH”

NOVEMBER 2009

**WHEREAS**, during National American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month, we honor the accomplishments and culture of American Indians and Alaska Natives and recognize their contributions to our village, our state, and our country; and

**WHEREAS**, the first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916 in New York. Red Fox James, a Blackfeet Indian, rode horseback from state to state, getting endorsements from 24 state governments, to have a day to honor American Indians. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed a joint congressional resolution designating November 1990 as “National American Indian Heritage Month.”

**WHEREAS**, to educate Americans and illustrate the important role of these native people to the United States, a new National Museum of the American Indian opened in Washington D.C. in 2005, and

**WHEREAS**, American Indians and Alaska Natives have played a central role in our history. In 1805 and 1806, a Shoshone Indian woman, helped guide Lewis and Clark on their historic expedition to explore the uncharted West. This remarkable journey, known as the “Voyage of Discovery,” would not have been possible without her efforts, and today she remains a proud symbol of American Indian courage and strength, and

**WHEREAS**, we are also grateful to the Navajo Codetalkers for their service during World War II. Participating in every assault the U.S. Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942-1945, the Navajo Codetalkers relayed secret messages that helped our Nation and the allies secure victory, and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Illinois has recognized and celebrated the achievements and enduring history of American Indians and Alaska Natives in the month of November since 1919.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Kristina M. Kovarik, Mayor of Gurnee, do hereby proclaim and call upon the citizens of the Village of Gurnee, Illinois to join in observing this month of November 2009 as American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month. This month I encourage citizens to learn more about the rich heritage of American Indians and Alaska Natives and the role they have played in building and sustaining our Nation.

Dated this 2nd day of November, 2009.

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Kristina M. Kovarik, Mayor

Attest:

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Andy Harris, Village Clerk