



2018 Mid-Year Convention Toppenish, Washington

RESOLUTION #18 - 31

“TO ANNUALLY DECLARE MAY 5TH AS A DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES”

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, ATNI stands with tribal, state and national governments to raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Native peoples; and

WHEREAS, little data exists on the number of missing Native peoples in the United States and no comprehensive data base exists for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples including women, men, children, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Two Spirit, Non-Binary Transgender (LGBTQ2/NB); and

WHEREAS, recent Washington State legislation calling for a study to count missing Native women was passed and signed by Governor Inslee, and national legislation is proposed; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Patrol reports 89 Native American Missing Persons as of May 5, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Washington State is rated second in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUS) with 32 missing Native men and women currently listed; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Justice, Washington is one of five states in which the percent of Native murder victims (4%) exceeds the state's percent resident population (1.8%); and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, homicide was the third leading cause of death among Native peoples between 10 and 24 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Native trauma experts note, the public is generally unaware that the disproportionate disappearances and murders of Native peoples directly correlates to multi-generational trauma with roots in a history of forced relocation, forced assimilation, the boarding school legacy of abuse, familial separation, and, cultural, traditional, spiritual practice deprivation, extreme generational poverty, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), epigenetics, domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of all Native women in the United States have been raped, beaten, or stalked by an intimate partner; are 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual assault; one in three Native women will be raped in her lifetime; and Native women are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, there is clear need for increased education, awareness, transparent reporting of this crisis; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby declare, annually, May 5th as: "Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls upon all tribal, city, state and county law enforcement agencies to increase transparency and reporting of missing persons through mandatory data entry of all missing or unidentified persons found within their jurisdiction into NamUS within thirty days.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2018 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Legends Casino Hotel - Toppenish, Washington, on May 21-24, 2018, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary