



2024 Annual Convention Ridgefield, Washington

RESOLUTION #2024 – 38

“NATIVE HOPE FOR LIFE DAY”

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 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 natural, 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 ATNI; and

WHEREAS, from 2009 to 2012, the age-adjusted suicide rate for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth ages 10-24 was 14.66 per 100,000 people, which is significantly higher than the overall suicide rate for that U.S. age group of 8.25 per 100,000; and

WHEREAS, from 2009 to 2012, male Alaska Native youth ages 10-24 suffer from the highest rate of suicide of all demographic groups, 109 per 100,000 people; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide was the second leading cause of death in 2013, for American Indian and Alaska Native youth between the ages of 10 and 34, and the fifth leading cause of death for those between the ages of 35 and 44; and

WHEREAS, data from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho for the years 2018-2022 show that the age-adjusted suicide rate for NW AI/AN people was 19.5 deaths per 100,000 (95% confidence interval: 17.0-22.0), which seemed to be 11% higher compared to the total Northwest population's suicide rate of 17.5 deaths per 100,000 (95% confidence interval: 17.2-17.8). The data presented above also comes from a data source that is not corrected for racial misclassification, which means these estimates are likely underestimates; and

WHEREAS, the existence of significant risk co-factors, such as high prevalence of poverty, social stigma, high substance abuse rates, and intergenerational trauma, all contribute to the potential for increased suicide attempts among AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, suicide among AI/AN people is a public health crisis that requires a collective effort from tribes, states, and federal governments to bring awareness, prevention, treatment, and postvention needs of AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, the tribes publicly acknowledge that suicide and related behavioral health issues among AI/AN people are a severe health and social problem impacting Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, that ATNI finds that suicide and related behavioral health issues affect the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and economic well-being of Tribal members and other Indians living within the Tribal jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, that ATNI elects to join other Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Indian Health Service, and national partners and allies to combat suicide and raise awareness of its impacts on American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, that ATNI recognizes that September 10, 2024 has been designated National American Indian and Alaska Native Hope for Life Day; now

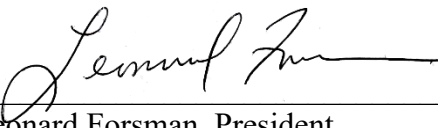
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI acknowledges suicide prevention through the recognition of September 10th (or the closest working day) as Hope For Life Day by declaring the day a tribe and tribal organization holiday to allow a day off in remembrance of our loved ones lost due to suicide or to take the time to spend with loved ones reminding them that they are loved and valued; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that September 10th (or the closest working day) is Hope For Life Day and recognized by tribes and/or tribal organizations to have a day off in remembrance of our lost loved ones due to suicide and/or to take the time to spend with loved

ones reminding them that they are loved and valued.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2024 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians, held at ilani Casino Resort, Ridgefield, Washington on September 29 – October 3, 2024 with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary