



# PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, for a millennia, Native Peoples have honored, protected, and stewarded this land of Kansas we cherish, and Native Peoples are a spiritual people with a deep and abiding belief in the Creator, and for millennia Native Peoples have maintained a powerful spiritual connection to this land; and

WHEREAS, too often in our Nation's dealings with Native Peoples there was a spirit of deception. A desire to mislead to gain advantage; and

WHEREAS, the United States forced Indian tribes and their citizens to move away from their traditional homelands and onto federally established and controlled reservations, four of which are in Kansas. Many Native Peoples suffered and perished during the execution of the Federal Government policy of forced removal; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government initiated the forcible removal of native children from their families to faraway boarding schools where their native practices and languages were degraded and often forbidden and condemned; and

WHEREAS, despite the wrongs committed against Native Peoples, the Native Peoples have remained committed to the protection of this great land by continuing to serve honorably in the United States Armed Forces, and Indian tribes are resilient and determined to preserve, develop and transmit to future generations their unique cultural identities and certain unalienable rights endowed by their creator, and among those are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sam Brownback, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim and recognize the special legal and political relationship Indian tribes have with the State of Kansas and the solemn covenant with the land we share, and commends and honors Native Peoples for the thousands of years that they have stewarded and protected the land of Kansas, and expresses regret for former wrongs and apologizes on behalf of the people of Kansas to all Native Peoples for the many instances of violence, maltreatment, deception and neglect inflicted on Native Peoples, and resolves to move forward with the recognized tribes in a positive and constructive relationship that will help us fairly and effectively resolve differences to achieve our mutual goals and harmoniously steward and protect this land we call Kansas.

DONE: In Topeka under the Great Seal  
of the State this 16<sup>th</sup> day of  
November, A.D. 2011

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Secretary of State

