Mecklenburg County North Carolina

Proclamation

WHEREAS, American Indian Heritage Month celebrates Indigenous people, honoring tribal sovereignty and underscores the rich history, culture and inherit strength of North Carolina's recognized tribes and Indian organizations; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to eight state-recognized tribes: the Catawba Nation, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Coharie, Lumbee, Haliwa-Saponi, Sappony, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, and the Waccamaw-Siouan; along with four Urban Indian Organizations: the Cumberland County Association for Indian People, the Guilford Native American Association, the Metrolina Native American Society, and the Triangle Native American Society; each of these tribes and associations is represented on the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs; and

WHEREAS, today, there are more than 130,000 North Carolinians who identify as American Indian, living in all 100 counties, making it the second-largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi River and the seventh-largest American Indian population in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, the North Carolina American Indian Heritage Commission, the North Carolina Museum of History, and North Carolina's Indian Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations collaborate on American Indian Heritage Month celebrations each year to increase awareness of American Indian history and issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim November 2025, as

"AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH"

in Mecklenburg County and encourage all citizens to join us in this special observance.

This 18th day of November 2025

Mark D. Jerrell, Chair

Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners