

# State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

## AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

2003

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, American Indians have inhabited this continent for at least 12,000 years, and have played an important role in the development of this great State and Nation throughout history. Since the earliest contacts with Europeans who landed on our shores, American Indians have shared their knowledge of the land and its resources with the world; and

WHEREAS, American Indian culture and society are at the roots of agricultural development, medicinal discoveries, environmental preservation, commerce, governmental institutions and structure, and many other facets of our State and Nation. The social and economic well being of the Tar Heel State has been and continues to be heavily impacted by the rich resources and cultural contributions of American Indians. From the innovative systems and practices influenced by American Indians, many technologies and discoveries of the world have evolved; and

WHEREAS, 99,551 American Indians live in North Carolina, according to Census 2000, giving our State the largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi River and the eighth largest American Indian population in the Nation. North Carolina is home to eight American Indian tribes: the Coharie, the Eastern Band of Cherokee, the Haliwa-Saponi, the Lumbee, the Meherrin, the Occaneechi Band of Saponi, the Sappony, and the Waccamaw-Siouan. Through the rich heritage of these tribes, we see and experience the beauty and cultural significance that lives and thrives in today's American Indians, through their songs, dances, arts, crafts and traditional spirituality;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the month of November 2003, as "**AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH**" in North Carolina, and urge our citizens to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by the native inhabitants of North Carolina.



*Michael F. Easley*  
MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at Raleigh this twenty-fourth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and three and the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.