

State of Maine



WHEREAS, historically, Native Americans have the highest record of military service per capita when compared to other ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2000 Census 15% of Maine's Native American population was a veteran or was serving on active duty; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs Maine has 831 Native American veterans living in Maine and the number is growing each year; and

WHEREAS, June 21 is a historically important, but a very little known date when on this day in 1775, soon after the Battle of Bunker Hill in the first phase of the American Revolution, Penobscot Chief Joseph Orono met with George Washington at Watertown and agreed that his tribe's warriors, as well as the others in the Wabanaki Confederacy, would join forces with the Continental Army to fight a common enemy in the struggle for freedom; and

WHEREAS, since then, Maine's Native Americans have and continue to serve with the US Armed Forces in the defense of our nation and freedom around the world; and

WHEREAS, June 21 is not a day that commemorates a specific battle, but is about remembering how Native Americans in Maine agreed to stand together with their non-native brothers and sisters in defense of freedom, and our nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PAUL R. LEPAGE, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim June 21, 2012 as

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS DAY

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance and those brave individuals who gave their lives, or served in our Armed Forces to protect our freedom.



In testimony whereof, I have caused
the Great Seal of the State to be
hereunto affixed GIVEN under my
hand at Augusta this Seventh
day of June Two-Thousand Twelve

Paul R. LePage

Paul R. LePage
Governor

Charles E. Summers, Jr.

Charles E. Summers, Jr.
Secretary of State

TRUE ATTESTED COPY