

PROCLAMATION

ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLES WEEK

In 1973, the State of Alaska commemorated the history and progress of Alaska's Native residents with the designation of Alaska Native People's Week.

During that week, in a ceremony before the Alaska Federation of Natives assembled in Anchorage, we wit-

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nessed the certification of Alaska Native enrollment under provisions of the Claims Settlement Act of 1971, and the initial transfer of funds to Regional Corporations.

Since that time (the week of December 16, 1973), we have observed with pride the progress of Alaska's Native Regional Corporations as they have undertaken the most difficult task of securing the future well-being of their shareholders and of their children. We have witnessed significant development of our State's most valuable resource, our human resources, as Native people throughout the State continue to build leadership and professional skills.

With the strength of the native corporations ever on the rise we will mark another milestone in Alaska's history with the week of October 20, 1974.

This week will focus attention on the programs, progress, and achievement of Alaska's Native peoples with an eye to the future — a future which shall bring self-determination for all Alaskans.

During the designated week, the Alaska Federation of Natives will hold its annual convention in Anchorage. The federation will be addressing many challenges and problems concomitant with a rapidly developing state. They are to be commended for their diligent efforts.

Also during this week, as a highlight of the convention, Alaskans from all segments of our population will join at the traditional annual banquet in honor and support of the Tundra Times. Well known as the voice of Native Alaska, the Tundra Times continues to provide professional service in spite of its marginal financial resources. It is this sort of dedication which exemplifies to all of us that the Native people of Alaska are indeed capable of facing the difficult challenges of the future.

Approximately 60,000 Eskimo, Aleut, and Indian people still reside in their homeland — descendants of the first citizens of Alaska — and bearers of distinct strong cultural heritages. It remains the desire of this Administration to encourage and assist in the preservation of these cultural legacies as they hold meaning and strength for all of us. They should not be sacrificed to rapid growth, change, and policies, however well-meaning, that tend to erode rather than reinforce these values.

Now, therefore, in recognition of the contributions and achievements of the Native peoples of Alaska, I, William A. Egan, Governor of Alaska, do hereby proclaim the week of October 20 through October 26, 1974, as

ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLES WEEK

and urge all Alaskans to join me in recognition of the historic events of the week and in reaffirmation of the spirit of unanimity necessary to continue building a state of which all Alaskans may be proud.

Dated this 15 day of October, 1974.

/s/ William A. Egan

William A. Egan
Governor

/s/ H. A. Boucher

H. A. Boucher
Lieutenant Governor