

Rep. Clemente offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 198.

A resolution to declare November 2017 as American Indian Heritage Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, The state of Michigan and the United States of America has been enriched by the contributions of American Indians in all facets of life, including the arts, sciences, and business. The very name “Michigan” comes from an Algonquian word meaning “big lake”; and

Whereas, The culture of American Indians is not monolithic but many different tribes and nations, who each have their own distinct traditions and customs; and

Whereas, Since before the founding of our county, American Indians have had a difficult relationship with the European settlers and then the American government. From the first Thanksgiving to the Trail of Tears, American Indians have fought to keep their culture alive. This month, we honor the difficulties the American Indians faced while celebrating their rich heritage; and

Whereas, The culture and contributions of our American Indians residents will continue to grow in significance as we continue to learn the lessons of history; and

Whereas, Native American Awareness Week began in 1976 and recognition was expanded by the United State Congress and approved by President George H.W. Bush in August 1990, designating the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month; and

Whereas, The state of Michigan takes pride in its cultural diversity and welcomes the opportunity to honor our American Indian residents for their lasting and expanding imprint upon our state; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare November 2017 as American Indian Heritage Month in the state of Michigan. We encourage all citizens to celebrate the individual and collective contributions of American Indians to this state and to this country.