University of Arkansas Indigenous People of the Americas Day Observance to Focus upon the “Trail of Tears” in Northwest Arkansas

According to the Berkeley Indigenous Peoples' Day website (http://www.red-coral.net/Pow.html):

The idea of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day was not a new one. It was first proclaimed by representatives of Native nations and participants at the United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas, which took place in 1977 in Geneva, Switzerland. The declaration of this body was applauded and echoed by Native peoples around the globe. Indigenous peoples and human rights/peace/social justice/environmental organizations were beginning to gear up for the 500th anniversary of Columbus' voyage, 1492-1992, which marked the beginning of the European invasion of the Western Hemisphere and Native resistance to it. While governments were trying to make it into a celebration of colonialism, Native peoples wanted to use the occasion to reveal the historical truths about the invasion and the consequent genocide and environmental destruction, to organize against its continuation today, and to celebrate Indigenous resistance.

With representatives from 120 Indian nations from every part of the Americas, the all-Indigenous First Continental Conference on 500 Years of Indian Resistance, held in Quito, Ecuador in July 1990, saw itself as fulfilling a prophesy that the Native nations would rise again when the eagle of the north joined with the condor of the south. The conference resolved to transform Columbus Day, 1992, "into an occasion to strengthen our process of continental unity and struggle towards our liberation."

In 2004, Dr. Dick Bennett, the founder of the OMNI Center for Peace, Justice, and Ecology, recommended that the University of Arkansas host an observance in recognition of Indigenous People of the Americas Day. The University of Arkansas, in collaboration with the City of Fayetteville and the Omni Peace Center, continues to support the recognition of the First People of "Turtle Island". To honor those who have walked before us, we will host a series of events to commemorate the forced removal of native peoples from the eastern part of the United States to the Territory of Oklahoma along the infamous Trail of Tears and to celebrate the Native Americans of today. Thousands of people died during this thousand mile journey over the “Trail of Tears” in the 1830s, and part of the infamous trail traverses Northwest Arkansas.

On Monday, October 10th, the University of Arkansas will host a special program recognizing Indigenous Native Americans. A documentary on Native American history will be shown at 10:00 a.m. in room ARKU 503 in the Arkansas Student Union. This screening is free and open to the public.
From 1:00-2:00 students, faculty, and interested members of the public are invited to present readings of historical and contemporary writings by native authors in the Connections Lounge at the Arkansas Student Union.

At 2:00 there will be a procession from the Student Union to the marker in the park on Highway 62, which commemorates the location where a thousand Cherokees camped during their journey to Indian Territory in 1839, over the Trail of Tears.

At 2:30 there will be a ceremony in which members of Heritage Partners will speak about the historic routes through Northwest Arkansas which are part of the “Trail of Tears”. State Senator Sue Madison and Mayor Lioneld Jordan will present proclamations on behalf of the State of Arkansas and the City of Fayetteville commemorating this event. As indicated in the web site below, the park commemorating this historic site is located near the entrance wall of the University at the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Garland Avenue.

Further information about this historic site can be found at http://campusmaps.uark.edu/461.php

The University of Arkansas Indigenous People of the Americas Observance is sponsored by the Honors Film Association; the Native American Student Association; the OMNI Center for Peace, Justice, and Ecology; the Honors College; the Multicultural Center; the Arkansas Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association; Heritage Trail Partners; and the Department of Communication.

For more information about this observance contact Frank Scheide at 575-5961 (fscheide@uark.edu).

**UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

*Adopted by the General Assembly 13 September 2007*

The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the General Assembly on Thursday September 13, by a majority of 144 states in favour, 4 votes against (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States) and 11 abstentions (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Samoa and Ukraine). [Click here to view the voting record.](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/un dsrinddec/index.shtml)

Since its adoption, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States have all reversed their positions and now endorse the Declaration. Colombia and Samoa have also reversed their positions and indicated their support for the Declaration.

During the Durban Review Conference in April 2009, 182 States from all regions of the world reached consensus on an outcome document in which they “
Welcome[d] the adoption of the UN Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples which has a positive impact on the protection of victims and, in this context, urge[d] States to take all necessary measures to implement the rights of indigenous peoples in accordance with international human rights instruments without discrimination…” (UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, 24 April 2009, para. 73).


1. NATIONAL HOLIDAY FOR NATIVE AMERICANS Petition 
www.petitiononline.com/indian/petition.html Cached - Similar
Seventeen states do not recognize Columbus Day. The state of South Dakota has changed Columbus day to Native American Day. Therefore be it resolved that ...