

CLERK'S OFFICE

**APPROVED**

Date: 11-22-11

**Submitted by:** ASSEMBLY MEMBERS GRAY-JACKSON, BIRCH,  
DRUMMOND, FLYNN, HALL, HONEMAN, JOHNSTON, OSSIANDER,  
STARR, TRAINI, TROMBLEY AND MAYOR SULLIVAN

**Prepared by:** Assembly Counsel's Office

**For reading:** November 22, 2011

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
AR NO. 2011-325**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZING AND  
CELEBRATING NOVEMBER 25, 2011 AS ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE DAY.**

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WHEREAS, in proclaiming November 2011 as National Native American Heritage Month and Friday, November 25, 2011 as Native American Heritage Day, President Obama called upon all Americans to "*celebrate the rich heritage and myriad contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives, and...rededicate ourselves to supporting tribal sovereignty, tribal self-determination, and prosperity for all Native Americans*"; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Governor Sean Parnell proclaimed November 2011 as Alaska Native Heritage Month, in recognition of the immeasurable value added to our state by the wealth of knowledge and traditions passed down from generation to generation through our Alaska Native families; and

WHEREAS, innovative in its corporate approach in lieu of the Reservation model, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) created history in 1971 as the largest land claims settlement in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) has elevated the issues, concerns and interests of Alaska Native people since its founding in 1966, and with 4,000-5,000 attendees, the AFN Convention is the largest representative annual gathering in the United States of any Native peoples; and

WHEREAS, this October 2011, Anchorage again had the opportunity to serve as host city for the AFN Annual Convention, offering our community exceptional opportunity to highlight and appreciate additional discussion on current events and issues; and

WHEREAS, in the 2010 U.S. Census, 19.5% of Alaska's population identify themselves as American Indian and Alaska Native, the highest percentile reporting under this category of any state; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native Americans represent eleven distinct cultures, each with an indigenous language and often two or more different dialects; and

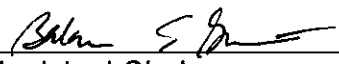
WHEREAS, Anchorage is exceptionally enriched by the cultural legacy and accomplishments of Alaska Natives as survivors, teachers, artists, authors, scientists, soldiers, tribal, corporate and political leaders – outstanding members in all vocations;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Assembly recognizes and celebrates November 25, 2011 as **Alaska Native Heritage Day**, a day to remember and rejoice in the richness of Alaska Native heritage and culture we are privileged to enjoy in this community.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November,  
2011.

  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
Municipal Clerk