

Public Law 102-279

102d Congress

Joint Resolution

May 9, 1992

[S.J. Res. 222]

To designate 1992 as the "Year of Reconciliation Between American Indians and non-Indians".

Whereas 1992 will be recognized as the quincentennial anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus to this continent;
Whereas this 500th anniversary offers an opportunity for the United States to honor the indigenous peoples of this continent;
Whereas strife between American Indian and non-Indian cultures is of grave concern to the people of the United States;
Whereas in the past, improvement in cultural understanding has been achieved by individuals who have striven to understand the differences between cultures and to educate others;
Whereas a national effort to develop trust and respect between American Indians and non-Indians must include participation from the private and public sectors, churches and church associations, the Federal Government, Tribal governments and State governments, individuals, communities, and community organizations;
Whereas mutual trust and respect provides a sound basis for constructive change, given a shared commitment to achieving the goals of equal opportunity, social justice and economic prosperity; and
Whereas the celebration of our cultural differences can lead to a new respect for American Indians and their culture among non-Indians: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That 1992 is designated as the "Year of Reconciliation Between American Indians and non-Indians". The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States, both Indian and non-Indian, to lay aside fears and mistrust of one another, to build friendships, to join together and take part in shared cultural activities, and to strive towards mutual respect and understanding.

Approved May 9, 1992.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 222:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 138 (1992):

Mar. 17, considered and passed Senate.

Apr. 30, considered and passed House.