



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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JULIAN BOND

Chairman, Board of Directors

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, On May 16th, 2009, White Bison, Inc., an American Indian non-profit charitable organization, began a 40-day, 6800 mile cross-country journey to present and former Indian School sites with the goal of promoting awareness, dialogue and forgiveness among Native peoples for the historical trauma of the Indian Boarding School Era which began in 1879; and
- WHEREAS, The Journey includes stops at 23 present and former Indian boarding school sites where educational activities, facilitated talking circles and traditional Indian ceremonies will be held to promote awareness and support healing from the intergenerational trauma originating from the boarding school experience; and
- WHEREAS, Unresolved grief among school survivors and/or their descendants may still be carried from trauma experienced at many of these schools; and
- WHEREAS, An increasing body of evidence shows that intergenerational trauma is connected to suicides, substance abuse, domestic violence, child sexual abuse, family break-ups and diabetes which continue to plague Native American communities today. The Wellbriety Journey for Forgiveness will help begin the healing process in Native communities around the country; and
- WHEREAS, Between 1879 to 1934, Native children were removed from their homes to attend one of 500 schools run by the government and churches to assimilate Native people; and
- WHEREAS, At these schools, children were severely punished for speaking their native language and practicing their traditions and cultural ways; and
- WHEREAS, Widespread physical and sexual abuse against children occurred at many schools and has been documented. Many died there. Their bodies remain in marked and unmarked graves; and
- WHEREAS, While most of these schools had shut down by 1940, others stayed open and loopholes in the law allowed abuses to continue there into the 1980s; and
- WHEREAS, The Wellbriety Journey for Forgiveness has designated June as National Forgiveness Month; and

NOW, THEREFORE, The Board of Directors of the NAACP does hereby proclaim our support for the White Bison's 2009 Wellbriety Journey for Forgiveness and strongly urges citizens to participate in this event and the on-going healing and reconciliation process in our country.

Submitted By: Sean Novak

At-Large Member