



**MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN
RESOLUTION 22-26
IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION REVERSING
TERMINATION AND RESTORING THE BROTHERTOWN INDIAN
NATION TO A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBE**

WHEREAS, we, the Menominee people, are indigenous to what is now known as the State of Wisconsin, our place of origin was at the mouth of the Menominee River where the five clans of the Menominee were created and include the Awāēhsaeh (Bear), Kenēw (Eagle), Mahwāēw (Wolf), Mōs (Moose), and Otāēqçiah (Crane), and we continue to live on our ancestral land that was granted by Māēc-Awāētok (Great Spirit); and

WHEREAS, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (the "Tribe") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe as provided by the Menominee Restoration Act, Dec. 22, 1973, Pub. L. No. 93-197, 87 Stat. 770, which appears generally as 25 U.S.C. §§ 903 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe, acting through its duly elected governing body, the Menominee Tribal Legislature (the "Legislature"), has powers to make and enforce laws, adopt resolutions, negotiate with Federal, State, and Local governments and otherwise exercise its powers consistent with the limitations imposed by its Constitution and Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the Menominee Indian Tribe recognizes the Brothertown Indian Nation as a culturally distinct and independent tribal nation whose reservation was located on the east side of Lake Winnebago in what is now Calumet County Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the present day Brothertown Indian Nation is governed by a Tribal Council pursuant to the Articles of Constitution and the Bylaws of the Brothertown Indian Nation, amended January 20, 2007 and maintains its headquarters at the Brothertown Indian Nation Community Center located in the city of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin at 311 Winnebago Drive; and

WHEREAS, the United States established a government to government relationship with the Brothertown Indians in the Treaty of 1832 (7 Stat. 405); and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the Brothertown Indian Nation filed a letter of intent with the U.S. Department of the Interior signifying it would seek federal recognition, and in 2012 the U.S. Department of the Interior issued a decision that the Brothertown Indian Nation was terminated by the 1839 Act of Congress which gave the Brothertown Indian Nation United States citizenship; and

WHEREAS, only Congress can reverse termination and restore the Brothertown Indian Nation to its former status as a federally recognized Indian tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Brothertown Indian Nation seeks the support of the Menominee Indian Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Menominee Indian Tribe and the Menominee people have suffered the terrible consequences wrought by termination and having been restored understand the importance of Congressional restoration to the Brothertown Indian Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin is in full support for reversing termination and restoring the Brothertown Indian Nation to its former status as a federally recognized Indian tribe.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned officers of the Menominee Tribal Legislature hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly **adopted** at a meeting held on June 16, 2022 with a quorum present by a vote of **6** for, **0** opposed, **0** abstentions and **2** absent.

The undersigned further certify that the foregoing resolution has not been amended or rescinded in any way.

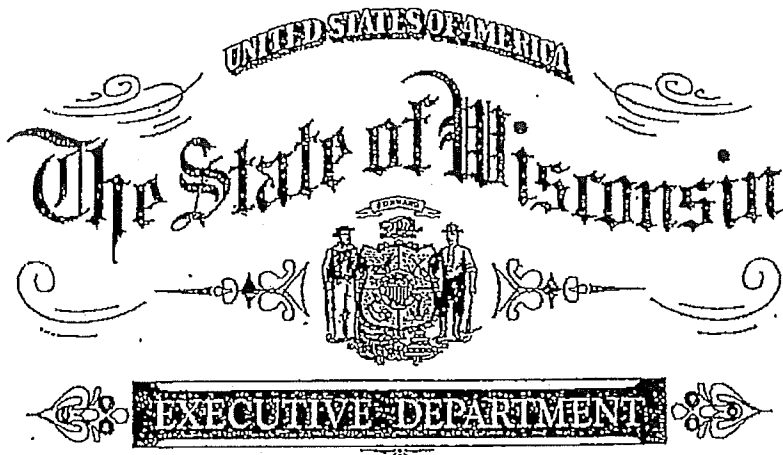


**RONALD J. CORN, SR., TRIBAL CHAIRMAN
MENOMINEE TRIBAL LEGISLATURE**

DATE: JUNE 16, 2022



**JOEY AWONOHOPAY, TRIBAL SECRETARY
MENOMINEE TRIBAL LEGISLATURE**



A P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, 1982 marks the 150th anniversary of the Brotherton Indians in Wisconsin and we are proud to salute and commend a great nation of people; and

WHEREAS, the Brotherton Indians are descendants of the tribes which originally inhabited New England; their ancestors include Pequots, Narragansetts, Mohicans, Wappingers, Montauks, Tunxis and other smaller tribes which were decimated by war, disease and famine; and

WHEREAS, in 1785, the last of this amalgam group settled on land in New York given them by the Oneida Indians; bonded in brotherly love and fellowship, this little band of Christian Indians called themselves Brothertown Indians after their settlement, Brothertown; they are also known as Brothertons or Brothertowners; they adopted English as their common language and grew and prospered; and

WHEREAS, pressures from land speculators and white settlers forced the search for land further west; on October 27, 1832, the New York Indians, comprised of members of the Stockbridge, Munsee, Oneida and Brothertown Tribes, signed a treaty with the U.S. Government and the Menomonee Indians of Wisconsin, establishing the Brothertown reservation on the east side of Lake Winnebago in what is now Calumet County; and

WHEREAS, to protect their land holdings in the face of renewed pressures for removal of all Indian tribes west of the Mississippi River, the Brotherton Indians sought United States citizenship, which was granted in 1839; tribal members readily distinguished themselves in territorial and state legislatures and, in 1890, the Brothertons ran a candidate for the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, the patriotic spirit of the Brotherton Nation is exemplified by the large numbers answering the call to arms throughout our history, courageously serving in the military from the American Revolution to the present; and

WHEREAS, the Brotherton Indians have a long tradition of and great respect for education; by 1890, there were already ten Brotherton teachers in Wisconsin and, today, the Brotherton Nation is honored by the tribal members serving as judge, lawyer, federal union lobbyist and surgeon, and are equally proud of those serving as educators, writers, authors and artists, and in business and the professions;

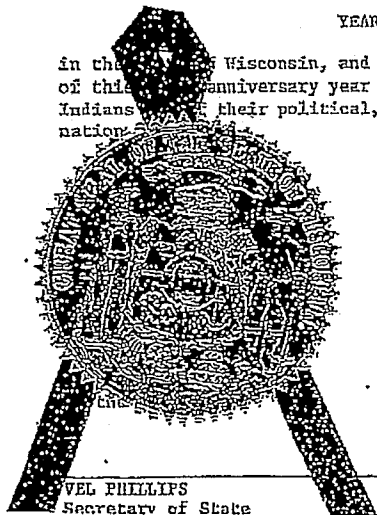
NOW, THEREFORE, I, LEE SHERMAN DREYFUS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim October, 1982 to October, 1983 the

YEAR OF THE BROTHERTON INDIANS

in the State of Wisconsin, and I urge the citizens of this state to take advantage of this anniversary year to learn more about the history of the Brotherton Indians and their political, cultural and economic contributions to our state and nation.

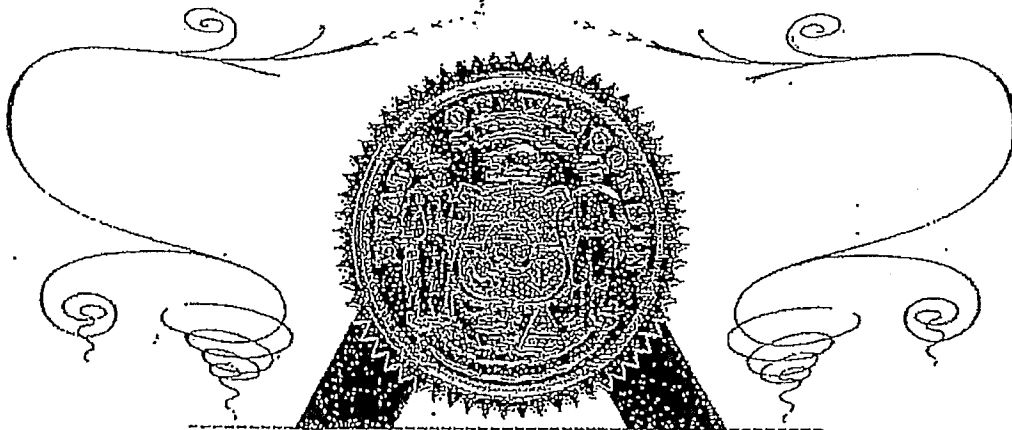
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capital in the City of Madison this 8th day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred eighty-two.

LEE SHERMAN DREYFUS



VEL PHILLIPS
Secretary of State

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN



CITATION BY THE LEGISLATURE

KNOW YOU BY THESE PRESENTS:

WHEREAS, the Brotherton Indians of Wisconsin are comprised of the remnants of many New England tribes that were decimated by wars, disease and famines; and

WHEREAS, their ancestors are Delawares, Pequots, Narragansets, Mohegans, Wappingers, Montauks and Tuxis; and

WHEREAS, the patriotic spirit of the Brotherton Tribe is exemplified by the large number of men who have answered the call to arms; and

WHEREAS, during the Civil War one of the Brotherton Indians, Stephen Nicholas, saved the life of State Representative Gervase Hephner's great-grandfather, Nicholas M. Hephner, when his horse was shot out from under him as he was forging a stream, Nicholas Hephner, a member of the First Wisconsin Cavalry, will long be remembered for his heroic assistance in the capture of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, at Irwinsville, Georgia, May 10, 1865; and

WHEREAS, on October 27, 1832 the U.S. Menominee and the New York Indians signed a treaty that secured land in Wisconsin for the Brotherton Nation, which included an eight mile stretch on the east side of Lake Winnebago in what is now Calumet County; and

WHEREAS, some of the Brotherton Indians early achievements include; the construction and operation of the first steamboat on Lake Winnebago, the construction of the first road, Military Road, running through Brothertown to the Green Bay area, the operation of a grist mill at Brothertown long before there were any other permanent settlements in the area, and the establishment of a Baptist Church at Brothertown in 1834; and

WHEREAS, the Brotherton Indians became citizens of the United States in 1839; and

WHEREAS, several Brotherton Indians distinguished themselves in the early territorial and state legislatures, including William Fowler, Alonzo Dick and W. H. Dick; and

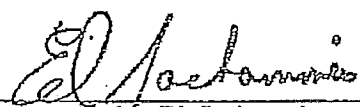
WHEREAS, in 1890 the Brotherton Indians ran a candidate, Edgar Dick, for the U. S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Brotherton Indians have a long tradition of being well educated; and

WHEREAS, Samson Occom, an early Brotherton missionary, was instrumental in obtaining the money used to start Dartmouth College, and in 1890 there were 10 Brotherton teachers and in 1982 the Brotherton Nation is honored by having a judge, lawyer, federal union lobbyist, surgeon, several educators, writers, authors, artists and other professional and business people in the tribe; now, therefore;

The Members of the Wisconsin Legislature, on the motion of REPRESENTATIVE HEPHNER and SENATOR HANAWAY, under Joint Rule 7, do congratulate the Brotherton Indians on their 150th Anniversary Celebration in Wisconsin; commend them on the numerous contributions made by their people to the State of Wisconsin; commend the courageous men who fought, from the Revolution to the present, and earned respect and dignity for the Brotherton Tribe; and wish the Brotherton Indians continued success in bringing to the public's attention the important role they play in history.

Senator Fred A. Risser
President of the Senate



Representative Ed Jackmonis
Speaker of the Assembly

Summary of Brothertown Indian Nation History

Continuity, survival and autonomy are and always have been the Brothertown Tribes objectives.

The Brothertown came together in the 1700s under the leadership of Samson Occom, as a means of continuing it's common culture and identity. The tribe descends from Christian Indians of the Mohegan, Pequot, Niantic, Narragansett, Montaukett and Tunxis tribes from seven separate Indian villages in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Long Island coming together in Brothertown (originally Eeyamquittoowauconnuck).

During their centuries of history in the Northeast, the six parent tribes had known both war and friendship with each other, and much kinship and history preceded the forming of the Brothertown Tribe. In the 1700's the combination of purposeful Indian policy and aggressively encroaching white settlements destroyed or diminished hunting, fishing and farming, forcing Brothertown ancestors off their lands. To prevent further degradation, disease and poverty Samson Occom and Joseph Johnson worked to arrange for the Brothertown Tribe to move to land in Waterville, New York, that the Oneida Indian Tribe granted to the Brothertown.

When white settlers and the state of New York pressured the Brothertown to cede land, just before the period of the Indian Removal Act, the Brothertown Tribe along with the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe and members of the Oneida Tribe prepared to move further west. A small Brothertown and Munsee settlement was begun at White River, Indiana but the federal government purchased that land in the early 1820's. The Brothertown and Stockbridge then acquired land on the Fox River near Green Bay, Wisconsin, but a few years later, the federal government, through treaty negotiations with the Menominee Tribe, forced the Brothertown and the Stockbridge off that land and onto lands on the east side of Lake Winnebago. Almost immediately after arrival at Lake Winnebago the federal government threatened to remove the Brothertown to Kansas.

In the 1830's, to prevent the federal government from requiring the Brothertown to move a 5th time In 60 years, the Brothertown petitioned Congress for relief. The Tribe asked that the United States provide the deed to the land on Lake Winnebago and allow Tribal members to own their own lots-almost 50 years before the Dawes Act, which would achieve the same thing for most other tribes. When there

was no response, the Brothertown petitioned again, also asking for citizenship. The Act of 1839 gave the Brothertown citizenship, making the Brothertown one of the earliest tribes to gain both citizenship and individual ownership of its own land via allotment. Individual ownership of the land, which was not protected by trust (unlike allotments in the Dawes Act), and on which tribal members paid taxes, was not a success. The financial panics of the 1850's, in combination with the Civil War, massive emigration into Wisconsin and insufficient land for farming and hunting affected the Tribe greatly.

The Brothertown Tribe lost its land-again-but again, the Brothertown never lost their identity. More than 170 years after being granted citizenship, greater than one in three households of the Brothertown Tribe continue to live within 80 miles of the original allotments and more than half the Tribe live within 130 miles of the allotments.

September 15, 2012

Grand opening of the Brothertown Indian Nation Community Center (BINCC)
311 Winnebago Dr, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935

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PO Box 2206
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54936-2206

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