



State of Missouri

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1839 the last detachment of Cherokees arrived in Indian Territory after removal from their ancestral homelands in the Southeast by the federal government on the infamous Trail of Tears; and

WHEREAS, this year commemorates the one hundred and eightieth anniversary of the end of that 1,000-mile journey where about 4,000 Cherokees perished along "The Place Where They Cried"; and

WHEREAS, the state of Missouri is one of the states on the route the Cherokee people traveled in 1838 and 1839; and

WHEREAS, the will to survive and thrive enabled the Cherokee to rebuild their government in Indian Territory, what is now modern-day Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation is now the largest tribe in the United States, with more than 370,000 citizens, approximately 8,100 of whom are residents of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, there is a Trail of Tears Chapter in Missouri that educates and memorializes that history; and

WHEREAS, a group of Cherokee youth retrace the Trail of Tears Northern Route on bicycle, traveling more than 1,000 miles through seven states in memory of their ancestors and which travels through Missouri on June 9-18; and

WHEREAS, in 1984 when the Remember the Removal Bike Ride was founded, some states along the route declared it Trail of Tears Week in their states.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim June 9-15, 2019, to be

MISSOURI TRAIL OF TEARS REMEMBRANCE WEEK

in honor of the 180th anniversary of the end of the Trail of Tears and in honor of the 35th anniversary of the memorial Remember the Removal Bike Ride.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 13th day of May, 2019.



Michael L. Parson
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE