



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor Proclamation

State Capital
Boise

WHEREAS, thousands of Basques immigrated to the United States in the late 1800s and early 1900s in search of economic opportunity and freedom; and

WHEREAS, many Basque immigrants settled and formed communities in the American West, including Idaho; and

WHEREAS, these Basque immigrants drew upon their homeland value of "Auzolan," or communal work, to support a new way of life in America by dedicated hard work in Idaho's sheep, ranch, farm, boardinghouse and business industries; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's Basque community grew to substantial numbers statewide for over 100 years, remaining one of Idaho's largest cultural groups today and the only cultural group that formed a district – The Basque Block – to publicly honor its heritage; and

WHEREAS, notable individuals who have demonstrated leadership in the State of Idaho are descendants of Basque immigrants, including Idaho's longest-serving elected official, former member of the Idaho Legislature and Secretary of State Pete Cenarrusa; former Secretary of State Ben Ysursa, Boise Mayor David H. Bieter, and historic preservation philanthropist Adelia Garro Simplot, as well as many other livestock industry, business and community leaders too numerous to name; and

WHEREAS, Idaho leads the United States in unique celebrations of Basque history and culture, notably through the international Jaialdi celebration that occurs in Boise every five years, annual statewide Basque festivals and picnics in Idaho communities, the world-renowned Oinkari Basque Dancers, many individual Basque musicians and bands such as "Amuma Says No," and Basque cuisine; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's educational institutions remain committed to preserving, promoting and perpetuating Basque culture for future generations through language, history and cultural education led first in 1974 by Boise State University professor and Idaho State Representative J. Patrick Bieter and his wife Eloise, who established the first Basque Studies Abroad Program between Boise, Idaho, and Onati, Spain, in 1974; and continued by the Basque Museum & Cultural Center, Boise State University, University of Idaho, College of Western Idaho, Boiseko Ikastola Basque Preschool, the Basque Global Collaborative; Euzkaldunak, Inc., and the Cenarrusa Foundation for Basque Culture; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's business, cultural, and educational communities remain committed to innovative civic, commercial, cultural and academic collaboration with the citizens and leaders of the Basque Country (Euskal Herria); and

WHEREAS, one of America's primary cultural institutions, the Smithsonian Institution, honors Basques at the 2016 National Folklife Festival as one of the "resilient communities around the world," and how the "Basque country sustains culture, drawing on traditions to innovate in a rapidly changing world" from June 29 through July 10, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the great State of Idaho proudly celebrates Basque heritage and the role Basque communities have played in the growth and success of the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim June 29, 2016 to be

Basque History and Culture Day

in Idaho.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 29th day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and sixteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred fortieth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-sixth.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

LAWRENCE DENNEY
SECRETARY OF STATE