WHEREAS, Elouise Pepion Cobell was a Blackfeet leader and activist, treasurer of the Blackfeet Nation, founder of the Blackfeet National Bank, rancher, wife, mother, grandmother; and

WHEREAS, as treasurer of the Blackfeet Tribe for over a decade, she discovered the accounting of the management of individual lands held in trust by the United States to be in chaos and filed the largest class-action suit against the federal government in United States history to recover royalties that had never been paid; and

WHEREAS, Cobell was the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit filed in 1996, known as Cobell v. Salazar, which after 14 years of litigation resulted in a 2009 settlement approved by Congress and the President in 2010 to provide payment to those whose property had been held in trust; and

WHEREAS, Elouise Cobell sought to right a century of wrongdoing to inspire a new generation of Native Americans to fight for the rights of others and lift her community out of poverty.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED,
I, Steve Bullock, Governor of the Great State of Montana, do hereby proclaim her birthday, November 5th, of each year as Elouise Cobell Day.

IN WITNESS THEREOF,
I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Great State of Montana to be affixed on ____________ (date)

__________________________
STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTEST:

__________________________
LINDA MCCULLOCH, Secretary of State