

STATE OF MONTANA

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION



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*