



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

For Immediate Release:
September 21, 2004

CHAIRMAN POWELL APPLAUDS OPENING OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

Washington, DC – The latest addition to the Smithsonian Institution, the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) opens in Washington, DC, today. FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell has released the following statement:

“The National Museum of the American Indian is a beautiful and welcome addition to the Mall. It will serve as an important celebration of the past, present, and future heritage of the Western Hemisphere’s native peoples. It will educate us on their rich heritage and history, the beauty of native cultures and will help to dispel common misconceptions and stereotypes of American Indians.

In my seven years at the FCC, particularly in the almost-four years that I have been chairman, I have traveled across the country visiting Indians on tribal lands, working in partnership through our Indian Telecommunications Initiatives program to ensure that people living on tribal lands have quality and affordable access to all telecommunications goods and services. We have worked together on issues ranging from tower siting to telemedicine and distance learning.

These visits have given me an enormous appreciation for the history and culture of the American Indian tribes that will be so powerfully presented and preserved at the new museum. As a nearby neighbor to the museum, I look forward to taking advantage of this important resource and opportunity to learn more about America’s first citizens and urge my colleagues to do the same.”

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