# Gary Richard Herbert

## Governor

# Declaration

**Whereas**, *during the Black Hawk War, the longest and most destructive conflict between Mormon settlers and Native Americans in Utah history, Mormon militiamen and Circleville residents—due to misunderstanding, fear, and suspicion—incorrectly believed the Paiutes to be in alliance with Ute combatants and imprisoned them;*

**Whereas**, *Erastus Snow, an apostle in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, sent word that the settlers should release the Paiute prisoners, but his message arrived too late;*

**Whereas**, *the settlers' fear and suspicion overcame reason and humanity and in April 1866 led to the killing of as many as 30 men, women, and children belonging to the Paiute Koosharem Band in the largest massacre of Native Americans in Utah;*

**Whereas**, *the town of Circleville disbanded after the bloodbath, and it was later reestablished by new settlers;*

**Whereas**, *the Circleville massacre has been neglected in Utah histories, and it is therefore little known by Utah residents;*

**Whereas**, *in 2015, the Paiute Tribe of Utah, Utah Division of State History, town of Circleville, LDS Church History Department, Utah Westerners, and others came together to erect a memorial to this tragic event;*

**Whereas**, *the town of Circleville donated land for the monument and agreed to maintain the memorial perpetually;*

**Whereas**, *on April 22, 2016, the memorial in Circleville will be dedicated as a solemn place of contemplation and remembrance to the memory of the innocent victims; and*

**Whereas**, *remembering this heartbreaking event can help bring healing to the members of the Koosharem Band of Paiutes and strengthen understanding between members of the Paiute Tribe of Utah and Circleville residents, as well as help all Utahns recognize the importance of resolving conflict peacefully and respecting the history and culture of all Utah people;*

**Now, therefore**, *I, Gary R. Herbert, governor of the state of Utah, do hereby declare April 22, 2016, as*

# Circleville Massacre Memorial Day

Gary R. Herbert

*Governor*