

Whereas

Whereas, James Gilbert "Jim" Pepper, the great Native American musician, was born in Salem, Oregon, in 1941, grew up in the Parkrose neighborhood of Portland, and took his music to New York City, throughout Indian country and to Europe and Africa, bridging cultures and continents during his lifetime; and

Whereas, a Jim Pepper was of Kaw ancestry through his father, Gilbert Pepper, and of Muscogee (Creek) ancestry through his mother, Floy Pepper; and

Whereas, Jim Pepper's Kaw name, Hunga-che-ada, translates to Flying Eagle; and

Whereas, Jim Pepper was a founding member, along with Larry Coryell, Ra-Kalam Bob Moses, Chris Hills and Columbus "Chip" Baker, of The Free Spirits, which is recognized worldwide as the first jazz-rock fusion band in music history; and

Whereas, his 1971 crossover hit "Witchi Tai To," based on a Native American Church peyote chant taught to him by his grandfather, earned him a spot on both the jazz and Top 40 radio charts and continues to be widely popular among national and international performers and recording artists to this day; and

Whereas, a Jim Pepper's remarkable career was marked by more than 50 recordings as bandleader, featured artist and composer; and

Whereas, musicians around the world continue to record their versions of Jim Pepper's compositions, and he continues to influence Native American and non-Native American musicians working in many different genres; and

Whereas, the Jim Pepper Remembrance Scholarship Fund was established to benefit both Parkrose music and dance students and Native American music and dance students living on or off reservations anywhere in the United States; and

Whereas, the annual Jim Pepper Native Arts Festival, held in Jim Pepper's home neighborhood, Parkrose, in partnership with the Parkrose School District, celebrates the music and legacy of Jim Pepper and will be held this year from September 19-26, 2016;

Now, therefore, I, Charlie Hales, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses," do hereby proclaim the week of September 19th-26th to be

Jim Pepper Week

in Portland, and encourage all residents to observe this week.

Charlie Hales

