

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** the Black Hawk State Historic Site in Rock Island lies adjacent to the historic site of the city of Saukenuk, home of the Sauk and Meskwaki Nations and birthplace of the famous Sauk Warrior, Black Hawk; and

**WHEREAS** the settlement of Saukenuk was at one time comprised of nearly 5000 people, making it one of the largest Native American settlements in the United States and the largest city in the State of Illinois and;

**WHEREAS** for nearly 100 years beginning around 1740 the Sauk and Meskwaki people called this area home and their principal dwelling place of protection, worship, and daily living; and

**WHEREAS** beginning in 1829 the city of Saukenuk began being occupied by white settlers whose encroachments led to conflicts culminating in the Black Hawk War in 1832; this represented the last conflict that Native Americans fought for their homelands east of the Mississippi River; and

**WHEREAS** Black Hawk State Historic Site was set aside as a place of lasting remembrance of the historic events that occurred during the Native American occupation of this site, as the result of efforts led primarily by John Hauberg who visualized the area as a memorial to the Sauk and Meskwaki and particularly to Black Hawk, who fought for his people and the land he loved; and

**WHEREAS** it is fitting that the descendants of the Native Americans who formerly occupied this land should be welcomed home for an event to honor their ancestry;

**NOW THEREFORE,** we the undersigned, hereby proclaim Saturday and Sunday, May 1st and 2nd, 2010 as

## SAUK AND MESKWAKI DAYS

and encourage the residents of our Quad City Community to join in welcoming representatives of these two historic tribal nations to the Quad Cities for this special event at Black Hawk State Historic Site.

