

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

**INDIAN NATIONAL FINALS RODEO ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH, SUPPORT FROM WASHINGTON REDSKINS ORIGINAL AMERICANS FOUNDATION**

The Indian National Finals Rodeo, the largest rodeo organization for Native Americans in the United States and Canada, announced today a new partnership with and financial support from the Washington Redskins Original Americans Foundation.

“The Foundation recognizes the importance of the INFR’s mission and is prepared to assist in the advancement of Native American rodeos by offering genuine opportunities for its INFR rodeo athletes, including our youth, and senior members” INFR President, Sam Bird, said. INFR General Manager, Donna Hoyt, said the INFR’s Objectives, in part, “... is to provide, promote and preserve the advancement of professional Indian Rodeo by empowering families, youth and communities through positive role modelling, educational opportunities, competition, culture and tradition...” The “INFR believes its Objectives fall in line with the Foundation’s Mission and that both mission statements are compatible.” Ms. Hoyt added.

“With this partnership we can strengthen our commitment to empowering families, youth and communities through the positive qualities the INFR supports,” Executive Director and President of the Foundation, Gary Edwards, said.

In announcing the partnership with the Washington Redskins Original Americans Foundation, INFR Commissioners called upon “the membership of the INFR, the families of members and the Indian Tribes that have supported the INFR through these 39 years of existence to join us in welcoming the Washington Redskins Original Americans Foundation to our family of partners.”

The Indian National Finals Rodeo was formed in 1976 with the unification of several regional Indian rodeo associations from the United States and Canada.

The INFR is the largest and the oldest Indian rodeo organization in the world. It sanctions nearly 700 rodeos in North America and offers more than \$1 million in annual prize money. The INFR also works with a variety of youth rodeo associations as well the National High School Rodeo Association and the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association, creating a natural progression for the athletes climbing from the ranks of youth and college rodeo to professional rodeo.

The INFR currently has 11 regions within the United States and Canada with members ranging from 8 years of age to 80. Indian Pro Rodeo is one of the only sporting events where children can compete with their parents and grandparents.

Contestants compete for prize money and awards throughout the year, which culminates with the Indian National Finals Rodeo, where more than 350 qualified contestants compete in the eight major events. There were 75 Tribes represented at last year’s event.