



USET Resolution No. 2010:019

SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION RECOGNIZING NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS AND AFFIRMING “NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY” ON THE FRIDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING IN HONOR OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS TO THE UNITED STATES

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Constitution of the United States, through the Treaty, Commerce, and Apportionment Clauses and the 14th Amendment, recognizes the sovereign status of Indian Tribes as Native nations established prior to the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) acknowledged and confirmed the inherent sovereign powers of Tribal Governments; and
- WHEREAS,** nationwide recognition of the contributions of Native American veterans to the United States will encourage self-esteem, pride, and self-awareness in Native Americans about the significant role their ancestors and heritage have played in the formation of the freest country in the world, the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** per capita, Native Americans have a higher rate of service in the United States military than any other group and have served with valor in all of the Nation's wars from the Revolutionary War through Operation Iraqi Freedom; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States entered into more than 350 treaties with Indian Tribes, including many peace treaties, and many historical Native American Chiefs and Tribal Leaders played a role in concluding these treaties with the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States maintains its historical government-to-government relations with Indian Tribes, reflected in said treaties, to the present day; and
- WHEREAS,** the exemplary service of Native American veterans should be honored by memorial statues of Native American veterans, including the Code Talkers, medal of honor recipients, and historical Native American Chiefs and Tribal Leaders on the grounds of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian; and
- WHEREAS,** in accordance with Public Law No. 111-33 (2009), the Friday immediately succeeding Thanksgiving Day of each year is an appropriate day to designate as Native American Heritage Day and Native American veterans should be recognized on Native American Heritage Day; and
- WHEREAS,** The United States' Apology to Native Peoples, HR 3326, should be acknowledged by a memorial plaque and computer kiosk detailing the contributions of Native American veterans, the history of Federal-Indian Tribal Relations, including the history of Indian treaties and the historical background of the Apology, at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indians; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors supports legislation that establishes a statutory memorial for Native American veterans, including:

- The Code Talkers, Medal of Honor recipients, and Historical Native American Chiefs and Tribal Leaders on the grounds of the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indians
- A display memorializing the Apology to Native Peoples, including:
 - A computer kiosk detailing the contributions of Native American veterans;
 - The history of Federal-Indian Tribal Relations, including the United States government-to-government relations with Indian Tribes; and
 - History of Indian treaties and the historical background of the Apology, at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indians; and, be it further

RESOLVED said legislation should affirm the Apology to Native Peoples as set forth in the 2010 Defense Appropriations Act and call upon the President to make the Apology known to the American people through a public ceremony, which includes Native American veterans and Tribal Leaders; and, be it further

RESOLVED said legislation should affirm Public Law No. 111-33 and amending Section 3 thereof by adding a new subparagraph (5) calling upon people of the United States to honor "the contributions of Native American veterans, including the Code Talkers, medal of honor recipients, Native American Chiefs and Tribal Leaders to the United States, our history, society and culture."

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Mobile, AL, on Thursday, June 17, 2010.

Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribe, Inc.

Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"