



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2015:018

USET MEMBER SUPPORT FOR THE HONORING FIRST AMERICAN VETERANS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION CENTER AND THE AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS MEMORIAL EXHIBIT

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) 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,** American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) and Pacific Islanders serve in the Armed Forces at the highest rate per capita compared to any group of Americans, and have served with valor in all the Nation's wars from the Revolutionary War through the present; and
- WHEREAS,** AI/AN and Pacific Islanders served in the Vietnam War at the highest per capita rate; and
- WHEREAS,** the founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, The Wall, Jan Scruggs, a Vietnam combat Veteran, lobbied Congress for land on the National Mall in Washington D.C. to build a memorial to acknowledge and recognize the service and sacrifice of ALL those who served in Vietnam; and
- WHEREAS,** The Wall was built on the National Mall in Washington D.C. with funds raised by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), and dedicated in 1982 to recognize Veterans who sacrificed their lives in Vietnam; and
- WHEREAS,** the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is now raising funds to build the "Education Center at the Wall" on the National Mall in Washington D.C., a structure that will allow visitors to come "face to face" with pictures of those soldiers listed on the Vietnam Wall, and see memorabilia that has been left at the Wall; and
- WHEREAS,** the Education Center at the Wall will be located across the street from the Vietnam Wall, and North of the Lincoln Memorial; and
- WHEREAS,** the VVMF entered into an Agreement in June 2014 with American Indian Veterans Memorial, Inc. (AIVMI) to have an AI/AN and Pacific Islander Veterans Exhibit in the Education Center (referred to as the "American Indian Veterans Memorial Exhibit" project) that will recognize contributions and sacrifices of AI/AN and Pacific Islander soldiers in all the Nation's wars and conflicts in which they participated, from the Revolutionary War through the present; and

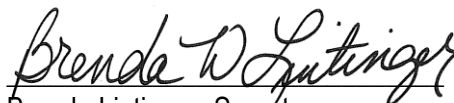
- WHEREAS,** the American Indian Veterans Memorial Exhibit will allow Tribes to provide their own specific military history as part of the digital exhibit project, including pictures, videos, and interviews with their veterans and/or veterans families; and
- WHEREAS,** the AIVMI is working in collaboration with the VVMF to raise money for the Education Center at the Wall and the American Indian Veterans Memorial Exhibit project; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Veterans Affairs Committee supports the American Indian Veterans Memorial Exhibit and fundraising efforts of AIVMI; and
- WHEREAS,** an opportunity exists for USET member Tribes to be at the forefront along with AIVMI of the “Honoring First American Veterans (HFAV)” fundraising Campaign, and help reach out to other Indian Tribes, businesses, and organizations to raise awareness and obtain financial support for the Education Center and the American Indian Veterans Memorial Exhibit project; and
- WHEREAS,** USET member Tribes can make a financial commitment towards the building of the Education Center at the Wall, and the American Indian Veterans Memorial Exhibit project, and receive recognition for their contribution; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), who’s provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors hereby recognizes, approves, and supports the “Honoring First American Veterans” fundraising Campaign to raise awareness and financial support for the Education Center at the Wall and the “American Indian Veterans Memorial Exhibit” project to be included inside the Education Center at the Wall which will be located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 12, 2015.



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



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”