



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### **Nashville, TN Office:**

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100  
Nashville, TN 37214  
Phone: (615) 872-7900  
Fax: (615) 872-7417

### **Washington, DC Office:**

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585  
Washington, D.C., 20001  
Phone: (202) 624-3550  
Fax: (202) 393-5218

### **USET Resolution No. 2015:030**

#### **HONOR DR. PATRICIA PARKER'S LEGACY OF SERVICE TO NATIVE PEOPLES**

- 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,** USET leaders wish to celebrate the life and work of Dr. Patricia Parker, a compassionate advocate for the cultural rights of Native peoples with the U.S. National Park Service (NPS); and
- WHEREAS,** known simply as "Pat" to tribal leaders – never the formal "Dr. Parker" or "Patricia" – Pat Parker proposed creation of a national American Indian Tribal Liaison Office within the National Park Service, and when the Office was created, she became its Chief, a position she held until her death on December 16, 2014; and
- WHEREAS,** Pat Parker championed the rights of Native people to access and reacquire their traditional homelands when those interests touched the NPS; and
- WHEREAS,** Pat Parker was instrumental in helping the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians complete a land exchange with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park that led to the Tribe reacquiring important aboriginal lands to build new schools for Cherokee children; and
- WHEREAS,** Pat Parker helped resolve many long standing issues between American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN), and Native Hawaiian organizations, and the National Park Service; and
- WHEREAS,** from 1997 to 2014, Pat Parker worked with Charles Wilkinson of the University of Colorado at Boulder, a national expert on Indian Law and Public Land Law, to teach a series of intensive two-day workshops on the foundations of Indian law and policy throughout the country, training close to 1000 Park Service managers and senior staff; and
- WHEREAS,** participants in these workshops gained, often for the first time, an understanding of the special trust, fiduciary, and historical relationships that exist between Tribes and the United States (U.S.) government; and
- WHEREAS,** at her death, Parker was deeply involved in long term efforts to create a Lakota-administered Tribal National Park on the South Unit of the Badlands National Park, and to finalize regulations establishing procedures for Tribal access to traditional plant resources in National Park units to which they are historically linked; and

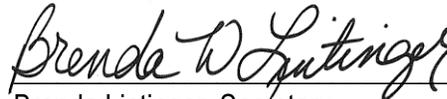
- WHEREAS,** Pat was also working to improve U.S. government consultation practices with AI/AN and Native Hawaiian organizations concerning Indian Sacred Site management and other matters; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** USET leaders honor the service of their friend Pat Parker whose hard work, intellect, and compassion helped improve relations between the United States National Park Service and Indian Tribes; and be it further
- RESOLVED** USET leaders call on the National Park Service to honor Pat Parker’s legacy of service to Native peoples by completing her work and continuing to improve relations between the Native nations and the National Park Service.

**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”*