



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### USET SPF Resolution No. 2016:030

#### **SUPPORT FOR A NATIONAL HOLIDAY RECOGNIZING ALL NATIVE CODE TALKERS**

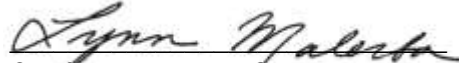
- WHEREAS,** USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nation's leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** American Indians and Alaska Natives have served in the United States Armed Forces at greater numbers per capita than any other ethnic group in the nation; and
- WHEREAS,** American Indians who could speak their Native language were recruited as Code Talkers and utilized their Native tongue to transmit sensitive messages that were indecipherable to U.S. enemies; and
- WHEREAS,** the first Native American Code Talkers were the Choctaw Indians during World War I, with the use of Native Code Talkers becoming more prominent during World War II; and
- WHEREAS,** since a large number of Navajo Code Talkers made significant contributions by using their language to transmit thousands of radio messages during the many battles in the Pacific, they are often erroneously thought to be the only Code Talkers; and
- WHEREAS,** brave and dedicated Code Talkers also hailed from the Meskwaki Tribe in Iowa, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, the Oneida Indian Nation, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and many other Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** a National Holiday recognizing the contribution and sacrifice of all Native American Code Talkers is needed to truly Honor the Native Code Talkers; 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** the USET SPF Board of Directors supports legislation to create a National Holiday recognizing the Native American Code Talkers from all Tribal Nations.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 11, 2016.



Brian Patterson, President  
USET Sovereignty Protections Fund



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary  
USET Sovereignty Protection Fund

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*