



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
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USET Resolution No. 2011:053

REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

- 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,** the President of the United States Memorandum, signed November 5, 2009, enacting Executive Order 13175: Government-to-Government Consultation with Tribal Nations directing all federal agencies to formally consult with all Tribal Governments and to establish a formal consultation policy; and
- WHEREAS,** the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) nor VA Senior Leadership have formally met or consulted with the USET member Tribes to allow the opportunity to provide the concerns and/or issues regarding USET Tribal Veterans; and
- WHEREAS,** USET member Tribes were instrumental and supportive in the establishment of the Office of Tribal Government Relations at the VA in hopes to eliminate barriers such as lack of consultation with Indian Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** a meeting with USET member Tribes would bridge this gap by allowing USET member Tribes the opportunity to provide their input on the establishment of a formal consultation policy, and understand the direction and organization of the Office of Tribal Government Relations; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Director formally requests a meeting with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Under Secretary of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, Director of the Office of Tribal Government Relations, Center for Minority Veterans, and other offices that provide services to Indian Tribes and their Veterans; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon the USET Veterans Committee to seek the assistance of Ms. Juanita J. Mullen, American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans Liaison, Center for Minority Veterans, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC in organizing this meeting between the USET member Tribes and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, LA, Thursday, May 19, 2011.

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

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