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.

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Brian Patterson, President          Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
USET Sovereignty Protections Fund       USET Sovereignty Protection Fund

“Because there is strength in Unity”