



# USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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## USET SPF Resolution No. 2017 SPF:003

### **SUPPORT FOR A NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND MURDERED NATIVE WOMEN AND GIRLS**

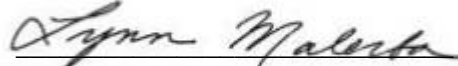
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** as Native peoples, our traditions call us to honor and respect the many roles women play in our societies, as well as protect their right to live free of violence; and
- WHEREAS,** American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women suffer from violent crime at a rate three-and-a-half times the national average, nearly 40 percent of all AI/AN women will experience or be the victim of domestic violence, one in three AI/AN women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime, and 17 percent of AI/AN women are stalked each year; and
- WHEREAS,** according to the U.S. Department of Justice, AI/AN women face murder rates at up to ten times the national average; and
- WHEREAS,** the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports homicide is the third leading cause of death for AI/AN women ages 10-24 and the fifth leading cause of death for AI/AN women ages 25-34; and
- WHEREAS,** this year, Senators Steve Daines and Jon Tester introduced S. Res. 514 and Representative Ryan Zinke introduced H. Res. 807, which would designate May 5, 2017 as the "National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls"; 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 SPF supports a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls to both commemorate lives lost and to draw attention to this problem, and calls upon the U.S. Congress to pass S. Res. 514 and H. Res. 807; and be it finally
- RESOLVED** USET SPF calls upon all branches of the U.S. government to enact law and policy seeking to reduce violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Cherokee, NC, October 26, 2016.



Chief Kirk Francis, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes  
Sovereignty Protection Fund



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes  
Sovereignty Protection Fund

*Because there is Strength in Unity*