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CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE, QUALLA BOUNDARY, NC

Date: _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (2025)

*A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH "PRINCIPAL CHIEF'S DAY" AS A TRIBAL HOLIDAY, TO
BE OBSERVED INSTEAD OF PRESIDENT'S DAY*

WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) is a federally recognized, sovereign tribal nation with a unique cultural identity, government, and history rooted in the enduring traditions of the Cherokee people; and

WHEREAS, the position of Ugvwiyuhi (Principal Chief) is a time-honored institution in Cherokee society, reflecting a legacy of servant leadership, vision, and dedication to the well-being of the Cherokee people since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, EBCI history remembers great leaders such as Yonaguska, Lloyd Welch, Nimrod Jarrett Smith, Sampson Owl, Jarrett Blythe, Osley B. Saunooke, John A. Crowe, Robert Youngdeer, Joyce Dugan, and others, who each served with distinction in guiding the EBCI through eras of struggle, growth, and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, the modern office of the Principal Chief continues to be a symbol of Cherokee sovereignty, and each Principal Chief is entrusted with the responsibility to uphold the values of the Cherokee people, protect tribal resources, and advance the collective future of the Nation; and

WHEREAS, President's Day is a federal holiday that honors the presidents of the United States, but does not reflect the distinct leadership traditions, cultural identity, or sovereign governance of the EBCI; and

WHEREAS, the EBCI desires to reaffirm its self-governance and celebrate its own leaders through the creation of "Principal Chief's Day," also to be known in the Cherokee language as "Ugvwiyuhi Iga", to be observed in place of President's Day each year; and

WHEREAS, this holiday will provide an opportunity for the Cherokee community to reflect upon the achievements, legacy, and responsibilities of Cherokee leadership, and to instill in future generations a deeper appreciation for the history and resilience of their Nation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in Council assembled at which a quorum is present, that:

1 "Principal Chief's Day" is hereby established as an official tribal holiday of the Eastern Band of
2 Cherokee Indians.

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4 This holiday shall be observed annually on the third Monday in February and shall replace the
5 observance of President's Day for all tribal government offices and employees.

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7 Tribal programs, agencies, and schools are encouraged to honor this day through educational
8 activities, cultural programming, and events that promote understanding of Cherokee leadership,
9 governance, and historical continuity.

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11 Appropriate action is taken to revise the official tribal holiday calendar to reflect this change and
12 ensure all departments and employees are notified accordingly.

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14 The EBCI Communications Department are encouraged to develop and share content that
15 highlights the lives and legacies of past Principal Chiefs as part of the annual observance.

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17 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that that all resolutions inconsistent with this resolution are
18 rescinded, and this resolution shall become effective immediately upon ratification by the
19 Principal Chief.

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21 *Submitted by Dallas Jon-Henri Bennett, Birdtown Community Member*
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