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CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA

Date: _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (2026)

*A resolution to encourage the Tribe and Cherokee Central Schools
to open sporting events with a prayer spoken in the Cherokee language.*

WHEREAS, the Tribe and its members have traditionally opened important events, including sporting events, with a prayer; and

WHEREAS, more often than not, the opening prayer is spoken in English language, and only sometimes in Cherokee; and

WHEREAS, to properly respect Cherokee culture and tradition, our Elders and our Creator, and to help preserve our language and energize our language by making it part of our daily lives, sporting events on the Qualla Boundary (including Snowbird and Cherokee County) should be spoken in Cherokee; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Council and Cherokee Central Schools should adopt policies to promote opening sporting events with a prayer spoken in the Cherokee language.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in Annual Council assembled, at which a quorum is present, that Tribal Council and Cherokee Central Schools should adopt policies to promote opening sporting events with a prayer spoken in the Cherokee language.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that all resolutions that are inconsistent with this resolution are rescinded, and that this resolution shall become effective when ratified by the Principal Chief.

Submitted by Teena Watty, with support from Sally Arch, Maggie Armachain, John Bird, Encie Brown, Janie Conseen Brown, Mike Wachacha, Tony Smoker, Roger Smoker, Myrtle Smoker, Lane Smoker, John Frances Smoker, Onita Bush, Nan Brown, Mary Brown, Alfred Welch and Maybelle Welch.