
Date

RESOLUTION NO. _____(2015)

- WHEREAS, the American Legion Steve Youngdeer Post 143 was approached in June of 2015 by Mr. John Davidson, Patient Experience Officer, Charles George Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VA Medical Center), Asheville, NC, about the possibility of making a life-size, life-like bronze statue of PFC Charles George, Medal of Honor Recipient, for placement at their center; and
- WHEREAS, the VA Medical Center does not have the necessary funding available to make this project a reality, so it would have to be accomplished through private funding; and
- WHEREAS, by federal law the VA Medical Center cannot solicit or ask for private monies to undertake projects to enhance their programs, grounds, or anything connected to the medical center; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Davidson indicated that he was contacted by Mr. James Killian Spratt, Master Sculpture, who is a US Navy veteran and a long time patient at the VA Medical Center; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Spratt wants to show his appreciation for the VA Medical Center facility by providing his services, foregoing his artist fee, to create a life-sized bronze statue of PFC Charles George in an Army dress uniform accurate to the period and unit decorations, standing at the position of attention (see attachments); and
- WHEREAS, the statue would depict PFC Charles George wearing the Medal of Honor, as well as four other medals he was awarded: the Purple Heart Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, and the United Nations Korean Service Medal; and
- WHEREAS, the placement location of the statue on the medical center grounds has yet to be determined, but will be in a conspicuous location where it could be easily viewed by veterans, visitors, and staff; and

WHEREAS, the funding needed would include the cost of materials and studio use to prepare the mold, pour the material, sandblast all pieces, weld the completed statues together, cosmetically cover the welds, tap the pedestals for the mounting hardware, and make additional smaller versions for selective distribution; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated cost for the first statue would be \$20,000, and a second statue dedicated to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) would cost \$15,000 which would include an additional cost to assist with artist living expenses; and

WHEREAS, the artist, Mr. Spratt, is working with the EBCI PFC Charles George Memorial Fund Project Committee (Project Committee), family members of Charles George, and the VA Medical Center in completing this project; and

WHEREAS, the Project Committee is made up of tribal veterans, Tribal Council members, and community members who are dedicated and devoted to raising the necessary funds to acquire the two (2) statues that will be placed in locations that will be determined by the EBCI community; and

WHEREAS, the projected amount of the fundraising effort will be \$35,000, which will include the cost of two (2) statues and some smaller versions for selective distribution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Tribal Council Assembled, at which a quorum is present that the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians does hereby provide \$_____ to assist with costs of the PFC Charles George Memorial Fund Project which includes the design and creation of two (2) life-size bronze statues of PFC Charles George for placement at the VA Medical Center in Asheville, NC and at a to be determined location in Cherokee, NC and some smaller version bronze statues for selective distribution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that all resolutions inconsistent with this resolution be rescinded, that this resolution shall become effective when ratified by the Principal Chief and that the intent of this resolution be carried out by the Budget Office.

Submitted by: EBCI PFC Charles George Memorial Fund Project Committee