

RESOLUTION NO. ____ (2026)

WHEREAS, the Dinilawigi (Tribal Council) of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) is authorized in Section 23 of the EBCI Charter and Governing Document "to adopt laws and regulations for the general government of the Tribe"; and

WHEREAS, the Dinilawigi has the right to bestow the title of Beloved Man on a citizen of the EBCI; and

WHEREAS, Davy Mitchell Arch, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians born July 20, 1957, has always been a champion of Cherokee arts and crafts, culture, and traditions; and he has a true gift of knowledge of Cherokee crafts and how they are made. He knows how to collect materials to make crafts and is then able to teach that knowledge to young and old alike. Davy quietly goes about his life, never looking or asking for acknowledgment of what he knows; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Arch spent his early life in Aniwodihi (Painttown) with his grandfather, Lloyd Johnson, who taught him Cherokee storytelling, herbal medicine and how to use wild plants as food; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Arch learned woodcraft from his uncle, Boyce Allison; and he learned beadwork, pottery and sewing from his mother, Jean Johnson Arch, and his grandmother, Rachel Johnson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Arch learned alongside Cherokee master crafts people including John Wilnoty, Bob Reed, Goingback Chiltoskie, Red Bradley, his mentor Sim Jessan, Amanda, and Gil and Geet Crowe; and

WHEREAS, Davy has taken what was taught by previously mentioned artists to ensure future artists have the skills and knowledge that others have passed on to him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Arch worked for years at the Oconaluftee Indian Village as a demonstrator of Cherokee crafts, and later as a manager – sharing the history and artisanship of Cherokee arts and crafts with the world for almost 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Arch is a well-known artisan and represents the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians proudly on many boards and organizations including: North Carolina Arts Council board, Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual Inc. board; North Carolina Arts Foundation board; North Carolina Trail of Tears Association board; and he is a member of the Southern Highlands Guild, the Cherokee County Arts Council, and the Haywood Arts Council; and

~~WHEREAS, Mr. Arch helped start the Qualla Boundary Potters Guild and has received numerous awards including the Western Carolina Mountain Heritage Award and serving as a Grand Marshal for the Cherokee Indian Fair Parade; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Davy Arch has traveled across the world to demonstrate various Cherokee crafts, such as his infamous mask-making styles and wood carving, and educating others about the stories, myths, and history of the EBCI; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Davy Arch has shared his historical and artisan knowledge passed down from other artists that have helped not to just inspire other artisans, but to teach future artists within the EBCI; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Davy Arch has performed and demonstrated our culture and traditions for the pure reasons of ensuring the history of the EBCI is preserved. Davy Arch has taught the Cherokee arts and history across countries in North America and Europe. Davy Arch has also designated his time and knowledge to various classes and lectures at little to no cost when it comes to his expertise and knowledge; and~~

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Indians in Council assembled, that Davy Mitchell Arch is hereby bestowed the title of Beloved Man of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Submitted by Dawn Arneach and Driver Blythe