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CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE  
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (2024)

*A resolution to name Dr. Sharlotte Neely as an Honorary Member  
of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.*

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WHEREAS, it has been a tradition of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to give special recognition to persons who are not members of the Tribe but who have, over years, contributed extraordinary time and energy to the Tribe and its members and have earned a place in the hearts of Tribal members; and

WHEREAS, the ultimate expression of recognition is for the Tribe to name a person as an honorary member of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the title of honorary member does not provide any legal or financial benefit to the recipient. Rather, it is an expression of appreciation and respect by the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sharlotte Neely deserves to be named an honorary member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

WHEREAS, since 1973, Dr. Neely has dedicated much of her life to the Cherokees, and particularly to the people of the Snowbird community; and

WHEREAS, as an anthropologist, friend, and advocate, she consistently highlighted the strength and values of the Cherokee people, and she always shared the fruits of her labor with the Cherokee people.

WHEREAS, Dr. Neely began as a researcher, friend, and advocate in the house along Cornsilk Branch in Snowbird, which Ella Long Jackson let her use. She checked on her Tribal member neighbors and learned to speak a little bit of Cherokee from Gaffney Long; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Neely dedicated much of her professional and personal life to the Tribal members who lived in Snowbird, and she created strong and beautiful friendships with them; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Neely made a significant contribution to the education of others when she published her book "Snowbird Cherokees: People of Persistence", and the recent edition of the book includes a foreword written by Trey Adcock (Cherokee Nation) and Gilliam Jackson (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians); and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Neely wrote more than two dozen additional publications about the Cherokees  
2 and more than twenty professional papers, and over 43 years as a professor taught  
3 her students about the Cherokee people.  
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5 WHEREAS, Dr. Neely was a consultant on the award-winning film, "The Snowbird  
6 Cherokees" and donated the majority of her royalties from the Snowbird  
7 Cherokees book to computer software for the Snowbird Library and to others  
8 studying the Snowbird community; and  
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10 WHEREAS, Dr. Neely has agreed to donate of all her Cherokee field notes, slides, and  
11 photos to the new Junaluska Museum in Snowbird or to the Museum of the  
12 Cherokee People in Cherokee.  
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14 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee  
15 Indians assembled, at which a quorum is present, that in appreciation for, and  
16 respect to, Dr. Sharlotte Neely, for her friendship and selfless contributions to the  
17 Snowbird Cherokees over many, many years, the Tribe hereby bestows upon Dr.  
18 Neely the title of Honorary Member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.  
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20 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that all resolutions that are inconsistent with this resolution are  
21 rescinded, and that this resolution shall become effective when ratified by the  
22 Principal Chief.  
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25 *Submitted by Adam Wachacha, Snowbird Tribal Council Representative, and Lou Ellen Jackson.*