

Date: _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (2018)

WHEREAS, The American Legion was chartered and incorporation by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans;

WHEREAS, the local American Legion, Steve Youngdeer Post 143, is the oldest Native American Post in the entire Country and is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. The Legion stands behind the issues most important to the nation's veteran's community, backed by resolutions passed by volunteer leadership. The Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. It belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives;

WHEREAS, the Steve Youngdeer Post 143 has been blessed with a great community for which to serve and sincerely appreciates the support from the Tribal Government and the excellent facilities at the Post and the community of which it serves.

WHEREAS, throughout the Qualla Boundary there are many Veterans that served it's Country and Tribe with honor and distinction and were wounded in battle defending this Nation and Tribe. Some wounded multiple times and having received the Purple Heart, the Nation's oldest military award, for their unselfish service. The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the U.S. who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. It is specifically a combat decoration.

WHEREAS, in an attempt to honor those recipients of the Purple Heart medal for being wounded in battle, the Veterans of the American Legion Steve Youngdeer Post 143 wishes to recognize them by designating the Qualla Boundary a Purple Heart Community. This recognition will show all who enters the Qualla Boundary we remember those who gave of themselves to maintain freedom for all.

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 the Qualla Boundary be designated as a Purple Heart Community. Upon approval of this Resolution the American Legion Steve Youngdeer Post 143 will work with the NC Department of Transportation to erect proper signage to identify the Qualla Boundary as a Purple Heart Community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any available help to fulfill the identifying signage locations and work to place signage in appropriate locations shall be provided by our Tribal Construction and Facilities Departments.

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED that all portions of the ordinances and resolutions inconsistent with this resolution are rescinded; and that this resolution shall become effective upon ratification by the Principal Chief or Vice-Chief.

Submitted by: American Legion Steve Youngdeer Post 143 and the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary