

Cherokee Council House

Cherokee, North Carolina

Date

Resolution No. _____ (2018)

- WHEREAS, Principal Chief Richard G. Sneed and the Tribal Council, Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, wish to honor Sgt. John Decator Burgess, Vietnam Veteran, Native American, and enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians with a formal request to Congressman Mark Meadows, 11th District to award a Medal of Honor recognizing his extraordinary heroism and ultimate sacrifice as a casualty of war in Vietnam,
- WHEREAS, Sgt. Burgess was a draftee and served our country for one year in Quang Tri, South Vietnam,
- WHEREAS, Sgt. John Decator Burgess was killed in action (KIA) on April 18th, 1969. He was 22 years old,
- WHEREAS, Sgt. Burgess was posthumously awarded three medals for his Valorous service. He received a Bronze Star Citation; an additional Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster; and a Silver Star with First Oak Leaf Cluster for Gallantry in Action, involving close combat with an armed hostile force in Vietnam,
- WHEREAS, Sgt. Burgess served as an Armored Vehicle Commander with Troop C (Charlie Troop), 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, the "Old Reliables", USARV, on a combat mission in Quang Tri province. When a vehicle in front of him was hit by a rocket propelled grenade, he moved his own vehicle into the line of fire to provide cover as the wounded men were evacuated,
- WHEREAS, Sgt. Burgess' extraordinary heroism was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Military Service and reflects great credit upon himself, the 9th Infantry Division, and the U.S. Army,
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians assembled, at which a quorum is present, that the Tribe, in coordination with the office of Congressman Mark Meadows, 11th District, petition for posthumous decoration of the Medal of Honor for saving several of his comrades at the expense of his own life.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is authorized to carry out the intent of this resolution, which shall remain in effect until implemented or rescinded.

Submitted by: Tom Wahnetah, Yellowhill Tribal Council Representative