
“New Jasper Resolution- Cherokee Unity Proclamation”

Preamble:

In October 1993, thirty-eight Cherokee Indian groups signed the "Jasper Resolution" which proclaimed mutual recognition of each other as valid tribal associations comprised of membership with Tsalagi heritage and lineage. We wish to reaffirm the meaning and spirit of the "Jasper Resolution" and form a new covenant to make official our mutual pride felt Cherokee beliefs.

Our New Resolution- Part One:

"We the peoples of Cherokee descent, add our signatures to this new resolution in order to confront the injustices of the past and to build unity and strength for the future of those American citizens (& relatives of American citizens) who are descendants of the Cherokee race of people. We do hereby recognize each of the peoples, clans, and tribes here assembled as being true Cherokee. We are First Nation descendants of Tsalagi blood, culture and heritage. Each of our groups are valid descendants of those who share and claim their given rights as Tsalagi people."

[Inspired by the historical "Jasper resolution" signed under the auspices of the assembled council fire of the "Cherokee Unity Council", JASPER TENNESSEE, MARION COUNTY PARK, 08/10/1993. For the original wording of the "Jasper Resolution", see "Wotanging Ikche" - a Native American Newsletter, VOLUME 01, ISSUE 031, 23 Oct. 1993.]

Our New Resolution- Part Two:

Each of our individual groups in this “unity confederation” clearly state that the term “people of Cherokee decent” refers to a lineage with FULL INCLUSION and ACCEPTANCE of the descendants of the historic Cherokee Freedman. We stipulate that members descending from the Cherokee Freedman will have equal status, rights, treatment, and respect- within our individual groups, and between our groups. (This is true also for Cherokees with additional African-American roots too.)

In most cases, our memberships are composed of mixed- blood Cherokees, some of whom possess additional and honored bloodlines from other Native American tribal groups. Our commonality here is that we are all Cherokees through decent and heritage.

Other groups (Tribal and Inter-tribal) who acknowledge our collective identities as true Cherokees are welcome to join with us in peace and friendship.

Our New Resolution- Part three:

All CHEROKEE individuals have the inalienable right to join together as Cherokees. We are an "indigenous people", "as per" the "Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples", adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, September of 2007.

Accordingly we recognize articles 2, 9, and 10 from the above named UN Declaration, as pertaining to the deserved rights of our respective Cherokee organizations, to assert and validate our identity and our membership as true Tsalagi:

Article 2 (from the United Nations Declaration)-

"Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity."

Article 9 (from the United Nations Declaration)-

"Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right."

Article 33 (from the United Nations Declaration)-

- "1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. This does not impair the right of indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States in which they live.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures."

AND ALSO: Article 8 (United Nations Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, U.N. Doc. E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/56, see XVI.; adopted)-

"Indigenous peoples have the collective and individual right to maintain and develop their distinct identities and characteristics, including the right to identify themselves as indigenous and to be recognized as such" (with emphasis).

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By signing onto this PROCLAMATION, we agree to the above stated Resolution- parts one, two, and three. The commitment to these ideals, here within, places us in a state of commonality that implies the creation of a loose "Cherokee Unity Confederation" based on our declared Cherokee decent and heritage and mutual respect.

Drafted for all, by:

Wayá Usgolvsagonige, California Clan Chief - The United Cherokee Nation (UCN)
Gigage-asgaya Gvdodi Wayá-dikata, Missouri Clan Chief - The United Cherokee Nation (UCN)
Sagonige Awi Uwohili, Virginia Clan Chief - The United Cherokee Nation (UCN)

Cherokee organization: The United Cherokee Nation (UCN)
Tribal Representative: Nvya Yona – Principal National Chief
Date: 03/03/2008

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