NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

NOVEMBER 2026

WHEREAS, what started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States, has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose; and,

WHEREAS, in 1990 Congress and President George H.W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November as National American Indian Heritage Month; and,

WHEREAS, November was chosen because it traditionally marks a time of harvest, gathering, and celebration for many Indigenous tribes; and,

WHEREAS, National Native American Heritage Month honors the profound contributions and diverse cultures of Native American people while providing an opportunity to recognize the rich history, traditions, and ongoing contributions of Native American communities to the fabric of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, while celebrating the rich histories of Native American communities, it is also important to acknowledge the challenges Native American continue to face including land rights, cultural preservation, and economic disparities; and,

WHEREAS, the area surrounding Buncombe County is ancestral land of the Anigiduwagi, more commonly known as the Cherokee, whose territory stretched more than 100,000 square miles across the Southeast, almost twice as large as North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, tribal members purchased 57,000 acres of property in the 1800s forming the Qualla Boundary, which is now owned by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, descendants of those who lived in their ancestral home and survived the Trail of Tears; and,

WHEREAS, Buncombe County was formed after the July 1791 "Treaty of the Holston," signed near present-day Knoxville, wherein the Cherokee people ceded most of the land that is now Western North Carolina to the United States; and,

WHEREAS, National Native American Heritage Month is a time to celebrate and honor the rich history, cultures, and contributions of Native American Communities; and,

WHEREAS, by recognizing and respecting the legacy of Indigenous people, Native American Heritage Month is a reminder of the resilience and strength of native American people in the face of adversity,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners proclaims **November 2026** as **National Native American Heritage Month** in Buncombe County and encourage our community to join us in celebrating the value, talent, and contributions of Native Americans in our county, state, and nation.

This 5th day of November, 2026.

Amanda Edwards, Chair
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners