

## RESOLUTION 2007-08

### A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DE FUNIAK SPRINGS, FLORIDA SUPPORTING THE MUSCOGEE NATION OF FLORIDA EFFORTS IN OBTAINING FEDERAL RECOGNITION AND TO DESIGNATE THEIR HISTORIC TRIBAL LANDS

WHEREAS, the Muscogee Nation of Florida ("Tribe") is comprised of lineal descendants of persons who were historically part of the Creek Confederacy, which relocated from Daleville, Alabama, and other areas of southern Alabama to the State of Florida between 1812 and 1887;

WHEREAS, the Tribe consisted of those Creek persons settled in the north Florida panhandle in autonomous communities (referred to in the constitution of the Muscogee Nation as "Townships");

WHEREAS, the Tribe is continuing the lifestyle and traditions practiced by the Historic Creek Nation of Alabama and Georgia;

WHEREAS, the Tribe on dissolution of the Creek Confederacy, the ancestors of current members of the Muscogee Nation of Florida relocated and reestablished home sites, traditions, ceremonial centers, tribal government (including through the traditional appointment of tribal leaders), and tribal economy in Walton County and other rural areas of the State of Florida;

WHEREAS, the Tribe has continued to exercise the governing powers of the Nation;

WHEREAS, the Tribe is providing services to members of the Nation; and enjoying the communal lifestyle of the Nation; and some members of the Nation remain on original home sites of their Creek ancestors;

WHEREAS, the Tribe members of the Nation participated in the 1814 Treaty of Ft. Jackson and the Apalachicola Treaty of October 1832;

WHEREAS, the Tribe was included in the Abbott-Parsons Creek Census, dated 1832 and 1833;

WHEREAS, the Tribe members of the Nation have established an ancestral claim to land taken from the Nation by General Andrew Jackson in the aftermath of the War of 1812 pursuant to the 1814 Treaty of Ft. Jackson;

WHEREAS, the Tribe beginning in 1971, the Secretary of the Interior distributed to members of the Nation in 3 actions per capita payments for land claim settlements;

WHEREAS, the Tribe in 1974, the State of Florida established the Northwest Florida Creek Indian Council to manage issues relating to Creek Indians in northwest Florida;

WHEREAS, the Tribe in 1978, the Council held an election for representatives to the tribal government known as the "Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians", which is now the Muscogee Nation of Florida;

WHEREAS, the Tribe in 1986, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida passed resolutions recognizing the Muscogee Nation of Florida as an Indian tribe;

WHEREAS, the Tribe the community of Bruce in Walton County, Florida, has been a governing center for the Nation for more than 150 years;

WHEREAS, the Tribe in the community of Bruce, the Nation beginning in the early 1860s, used and maintained the Antioch Cemetery, which remains in use by members of the Nation as of the date of enactment of this Act;

WHEREAS, the Tribe between 1895 and 1947, maintained a school that was attended by members of the Nation;

WHEREAS, the Tribe in 1912, established a church that is recognized by the Methodist Conference as a Native American church;

WHEREAS, the Tribe maintained a ceremonial area on Bruce Creek that was attended until the late 1920s;

WHEREAS, the Tribe's ceremonial area of the Nation is located in the community of Blountstown, Florida, 1 of the reservations referred to in the Apalachicola Treaty of October 11, 1832; is the site of continuing ceremonies, such as Green Corn, and traditional events;

WHEREAS, previous local governments have recognized the community of Bruce as the center of tribal government of the Nation;

WHEREAS, the Tribe during the previous 30-year period has received Federal, State, and local grants, and entered into contracts, to provide services and benefits to members of the Nation.

WHEREAS, the Tribe extends its educational programs to local schools and citizen groups throughout the region in an effort to enhance the historical knowledge of our schoolchildren and citizens as to the culture of our local Tribe;

WHEREAS, the Tribe takes numerous displays, artifacts, and other instructional tools to schools and other locations to assist its teaching efforts;

WHEREAS, the various teaching tools have expanded to a point wherein a formal exhibit vehicle is needed to facilitate the transport of these numerous items;

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Museums and Preservation has grant funds available to assist the tribe in obtaining an exhibit vehicle to transport its cultural items;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of DeFuniak Springs, Florida, does hereby support the Muscogee Nation of Florida's efforts to obtain Federal recognition from the United States of America and recognizes the Tribe's contribution to Walton County, Florida by the following:

The City Council of the City of DeFuniak Springs, Florida, fully supports H. R. 2028 and S.514 currently being presented in the 110th Congress of the United States.

The Historic Hunting Lands of the Tribe shall be considered to be as referenced in Exhibit A - Muscogee Nation of Florida Historic Tribal Hunting Grounds.

As recognition of the Tribe's history, the area in the State of Florida in which members reside that is bordered on the west by the Escambia River and on the east by the St. Marks River within Walton County, Florida shall be designated as the Muscogee Nation of Florida Township of Bruce tribal lands.

Be it further resolved that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to:

Chairperson Ms. Ann Tucker  
Muscogee Nation of Florida  
P.O. Box 3028  
Bruce, FL 32455

U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan  
Chairman Select Committee on Indian Affairs  
United States Senate 838 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Senator Craig Thomas  
Vice-Chairman  
Select Committee on Indian Affairs  
United States Senate  
838 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Representative Nick J. Rahall II  
Chairman Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. Representative Don Young  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. Representative Jeff Miller  
Washington D.C. Office  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1535 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, Washington DC 20515

U.S. Representative Allen Boyd  
Washington D.C. Office  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1227 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. Senator Bill Nelson  
Washington, D.C. Office  
United States Senate  
716 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Senator Melquiades Rafael "Mel" Martinez  
Washington D.D. Office  
United States Senate  
356 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the City Council of the City of DeFuniak Springs, Florida, unanimously approved this Resolution in regular session on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2007, and has caused this resolution to be enacted and executed on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2007.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DE FUNIAK SPRINGS, FLORIDA

  
C. Harold Carpenter, Mayor