

PASSED

CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE NORTH CAROLINA

FEB 12 1986

Date

RESOLUTION NO. 119 (1986)

- WHEREAS: James Morris Coates is of Cherokee descent through his maternal grand-mother and mother, and
- WHEREAS: he has always identified himself with great pride and dignity as a Cherokee Indian, and
- WHEREAS: he has always endeavored to live up to the highest level of personal integrity commensurate with his Cherokee ancestry, and
- WHEREAS: as a successful businessman, he has assisted American Indian people with employment, emergency assistance, and contributions to worthy causes, and
- WHEREAS: he has freely given of his time and personal resources in order to participate in, and serve on, various boards and committees of American Indian organizations and companies, and
- WHEREAS: he acknowledges and understands the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' current efforts to restore and preserve the birthplace, home and habitat of the great Cherokee linguist, Sequoyah, and
- WHEREAS: he has accepted an invitation from Principal Chief Roberts S. Youngdeer to serve as the first member and Chairman of the Sequoyah Memorial Museum organization known as "Friends of Sequoyah", and
- WHEREAS: the Cherokee Tribal Council under the leadership of Chairman Dan McCoy, is honored to receive and accept a fellow Cherokee in this distinguished capacity on behalf of the tribe.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Annual Council assembled at which a quorum is present that James Morris Coates be henceforth known by the Cherokee name of "ᎠᎩᎳᎳᎳ ᎠᎩᎳᎳᎳ ᎠᎩᎳᎳᎳ" which, translated means "Proud Cherokee Man",
- BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT James Morris Coates is adopted this 11th day of February 1986 as a honorary member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians by the full authority and power vested in the Tribal Council, and whom shall enjoy and be entitled to all the privileges and honors accorded thereto.

Submitted By: Principal Chief, Robert S. Youngdeer, and
Dan McCoy, Chairman of Tribal Council

Biography - James Morris Coates

James Morrisc Coates is a Cherokee Indian Businessman residing in a suburb of Detroit, Michigan, known as Grosse Point Woods. He is the father of 3 adult sons and one daughter. Thsir names are Joseph, Stephen, Frank, and the duaghter, Cynthia. Mr. Coates is divorced.

Mr. Coates is 56 years old and was born in a small rural community outside Louisville, Kentucky. The community was comprised mostly of American Indian People. James' mother died when he was 4 years old. He was raised by his father until he was 9 years old and was then placed in an orphanage after he refused to live at home with his father and step-mother. His step-mother was very abusive and refused to accept and recognize James as an American Indian. He remained in the orphanage until he was of age to join the U.S. Army/Air Force. James served in the U.S. Army/Air Force from 1946 to 1949. He served in a crash rescue unit stationed in the Aleutian Islands.

Mr. Coates is a successful businessman who started from scratch. He has always worked hard in sales and marketing. He has always beleived strongly in his own potential and integrity as a salesman. One of his earliest business enterprises was the manufacture and sale of cardboard boxes for commercial packing. His business ventures have been sucessful. Today, he is owner and operator of Sequoia Industries in Livonia, Michigan which is a suburb of Detroit. His company manufaturers precision transmission parts for General Motors Corporation. He employees 45 to 60 hi-tech employees, 10 of which are American Indians and have been with the company since its begining 5 years ago. James has always made it known to the American Indian community that he will hire and give any American Indian a chance to work if he is willing and dependable.

Mr. Coates is well known in the Detroit American Indian community. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Detroit American Indian Center, and the American Indian Services, Inc. The American Services is a licensed Social Service Agency for American Indians in Dearborn, Michigan a suburb of Detroit. Mr. Coates is a very humble man and wouldn't want it known public for his own acclaim, but he has helped many individual American Indians in emergency financial need. He has a heart of gold and feels deeply sincere about the well-being of American Indian families and children. He has also contributed financially to worthy American Indian causes and charities. Mr Coates is a collector of American Indian art from all over the U.S. He is especially a connoisseur of fine paintings by American Indian artists. Mr. Coates plant office and home is all beautifully decorated with American Indian art and artifacts.

Within the past year Mr. Coates was stricken with a very serious illness which has incapacitated him physically and is now in a prolonged period of treatment and rehabilitation. Although enduring pain, fustration, and physical demise, Mr. Coates is a cheerful man and continues to maintain a spirit of strength and love to all who may be in his presence.

During this time in his life of illness and uncertainty; his is extremely desirous of officially establishing a belonging to and identity with the Cherokee Tribe. Geneological research has not revealed his kinship to anyone on the Baker Roll. Research will continue with the roster of names of individuals removed to Oklahoma and with the criterion of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

In the Cherokee spirit of giving and sharing, Mr. Coates took interest in the further development of the Sequoyah Memorial Museum just south of Knoxville, Tennessee. This project was brought to his attention by Bob Blankenship through his acquaintance with Gene Begay. Bob Blankenship wrote a letter to Mr. Coates requesting his assistance and contribution to the Sequoyah Memorial Museum project. Through Bobs discussions with the Chief and Dan McCoy, a need was identified to structure and develop an influential Board of Directors for the Museum. Mr. Coates was seen as the person with influence and resources to head-up this effort. Mr. Coates has been a proud Cherokee all his life and maintains a continued interest in the preservation of Cherokee culture and history. In a follow-up letter to Bob Blankenship, Mr. Coates consented to assist the Eastern Band in this effort to establish a Board of Directors to ensure the continued operation and promotion of the museum now and into the future. The Chief wrote a subsequent letter of recognition and acknowledgement.

Because of Mr. Coates incapacity to be present at this time, he has assigned Gene Begay for 3 months to represent him in Cherokee with plans and tasks relative to the further development of the museum at this time. In working with Bob Blankenship and Duane King; Gene will be assisting in the foundation and structuring of the Board of Directors to be known as the "Friends of Sequoyah", and in planning and promoting the dedication and grand-opening of the museum early this summer. Mr. Coates is contributing the cost of Gene Begays time and expense.

Respectfully submitted to the Cherokee Tribal Council as pertinent information, February, 1986.

The attached Resolution No. 119 Dated FEB 12 1986 was passed
 Killed () and ratified in open Council on FEB 12 1986 by 90
 members voting for the act and 0 members voting against it as
 follows:

	For	Against	Absent	Abstain
Chairman Dan McCoy	/			
Gerard Parker, Vice	/			
Jesse Murphy	/			
Richard Bird	/			
Leon Jones	/			
Carroll Parker	/			
Bertha Saunooke	/			
Richard Welch	/			
Glenda Sanders	/			
Abe Wachacha	/			
Wilbur Sequoyah	/			
John Standingdeer	/			
TOTAL				

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL BY:

Dan McCoy
 Tribal Council Chairman

Date Veto Upheld _____

Wenonah Dugh
 Tribal Council Clerk

APPROVED (X) VETO ()

Alvin D. ...
 PRINCIPAL CHIEF

Date Veto Denied _____

I, as Interpreter for the Council hereby certify that the foregoing act of the Council was duly Passed (X) Killed () and ratified in open Council after the same has been interpreted by me and has been fully and freely discussed.

Interpreted ()

Marie Gumbelster
 Omitted ()

Interpreted

I hereby certify that the foregoing act of the Council was duly passed (X) Killed () and ratified in open Council after the same has been interpreted by the official interpreter and has been fully and freely discussed.

In testimony, whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Band of Indians. Superintendent, Cherokee Indian Agency.

Interpreted ()

Alvin Paul
 Omitted ()

Interpreted