

County of Buncombe
Proclamation

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
NOVEMBER 2024**

WHEREAS, Buncombe County's Commissioners and staff are committed to protecting and honoring the cultural heritage and legacies of the citizens within the community; and

WHEREAS, prior to the official creation of the County of Buncombe, the land was first inhabited by the Cherokee People who thrived and cultivated successful lives throughout the area until their mandated removal was created via the Trail of Tears; and

WHEREAS, while a significant number of Native Americans walked to Oklahoma, there were those who were dedicated to remaining in the mountains of Western North Carolina and they rebuilt their homes primarily within the North Carolina Qualla Boundary and became known as the Eastern Band of Cherokee; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 US Census recognized that North Carolina is home to over 125,000 Native Americans, which positions North Carolina as being home to the second largest number of American Indians east of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina recognizes eight tribal nations within the state, the Eastern Band of Cherokee is the only federally recognized tribe in the state; and

WHEREAS, the Buncombe County Commissioners recently supported the Eastern Band of Cherokee's request to rename Clingmans Dome and today the commissioners celebrate the U.S. Board of Geographic Names' recent approval of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' name change request of the Clingmans Dome to Kuwohi (pronounced koo-WHOA-hee). Kuwohi is the traditional Cherokee name for the mountain and translates to "mulberry place." In Cherokee syllabary, the name is *Jᵊᵊ*; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County continues to honor the legacy and generous contributions of Native Americans and indigenous cultures to our economy, culture, and community;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED on behalf of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners, that the month of **November 2024** be proclaimed **Native American Heritage Month**, and we encourage our residents to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of indigenous people, to learn more about the storied history of Native Americans and honor the important contributions that Native Americans have made and are making to our community and our nation.

This 19th day of November, 2024.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brownie Newman", written over a horizontal line.

Brownie Newman, Chairman
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners