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Office of the Principal Chief

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November 12, 2026

TO: S. Joe Crittenden, Secretary of Veteran Affairs
Jerri Killer, Executive Director of Housing Programs
Ginger Reeves, Executive Director of Realty Services
Kim Teehee, Delegate to Congress, Government Relations Executive Director
Brittany Denny-Davis, Executive Director of Human Services

FR: Chuck Hoskin Jr, Principal Chief

CC: Bryan Warner, Deputy Chief
Cabinet/Sub-Cabinet
Council Leadership

Administration Memorandum Establishing a Work Group and Directing a Review of Cherokee Veteran Housing Needs

The purpose of this memorandum is to establish a new Work Group to study and recommend additional safe and affordable housing options for Cherokee veterans. The new work group will examine Cherokee Nation's access to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Native American Direct Loan (NADL) program to help eligible Native veterans buy or build a home on trust or restricted tribal land as well as its administration of HUD Vash program, a joint U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Veterans Affairs initiative that provides rental assistance for qualifying veterans experiencing housing insecurity.

I. Background

In recent years, the Cherokee Nation has made the largest housing investment in our history through the Housing, Jobs and Sustainable Communities Act. In 2019, we began with a $30 million investment to rehabilitate housing. We expanded these vital efforts in 2022, dedicating $120 million to both new and existing housing programs. Since we have permanently authorized this housing commitment under HJSCA, dedicating $40 million every three years to support housing and community facilities across the reservation. We have focused some efforts specific to veterans, such as the Cherokee Veterans Housing Initiative through the U.S. Department of Defense Innovation Readiness Training program. The Mige Glory Addition in Tahlequah, where 21 homes were built for Cherokee veterans, stands as a recent example of what is possible when the tribe, federal partners, and local institutions work together. The Cherokee Nation provided 30 acres of land for the housing addition, while the Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation supplied materials and essential services throughout construction by the Army National Guard

and other military units. To address the housing crisis, particularly gaps where veterans are involved, more action is needed.

II. Direction

Accordingly, this memorandum directs the formation of a new Work Group to review current housing programs and recommend additional housing opportunities for Cherokee veterans.

a. Composition of Work Group:

1. S. Joe Crittenden, Secretary of Veteran Affairs (Chair)
2. Jerri Killer, Executive Director of Housing Programs
3. Ginger Reeves, Executive Director of Realty Services
4. Kim Teehee, Delegate to Congress, Government Relations Executive Director
5. Brittany Denny-Davis, Executive Director of Human Services

b. Objectives:

1. Evaluate whether Cherokee Nation should make property held in trust, as well other land title status, available to Cherokee Nation veterans participating in the Native American Direct Loan Program.

2. Evaluate whether Cherokee Nation should seek to administer or contract for administration of the HUD VASH program for veterans experiencing housing insecurity, administering that service directly.

3. Identify additional opportunities to improve housing access, affordability, conditions, and long-term housing stability for Cherokee Nation veterans.

4. Submit final recommendations to the Principal Chief by February 15, 2027.

III. Effective

This memorandum is effective immediately November 12, 2026

Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief