



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION®

RESOLUTION

*of the Board of Directors of
The American Chestnut Foundation*

WHEREAS, Rex Mann's upbringing in the mountains of Western North Carolina, and his father's woodsman teachings, led him to share with the world his authentic story about the tragic loss of the American chestnut; and

WHEREAS, Rex has served The American Chestnut Foundation diligently for 20 years as the Kentucky Chapter's first president in 2000 and then as a member of the Science Cabinet and Restoration Committees; and

WHEREAS, Rex's 43-year career at the U.S. Forest Service as its Wildlife and Fire Staff Officer included helping launch the Healthy Forests Initiative culminating with a ceremonial planting of a hybrid American chestnut tree during a ceremony at the White House with President George W. Bush in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Rex boldly led the development of the Foundation's first Restoration Plan beginning with the Meadowkirk Retreat in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Rex has devoted his post-U.S. Forest Service career to promote and teach others about the life, death, and rebirth of the American chestnut; and

WHEREAS, Rex has stepped firmly outside his comfort zone to embrace public speaking about chestnut, including a 2018 TEDx Talk, an interview on national television, and narrator in several documentary films; and

WHEREAS, despite serious health challenges in 2020, Rex continued his outreach and speaking engagements, including initiating a key partnership with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians by celebrating a lifelong friendship between his father and an elder; and

WHEREAS, this friendship will lead to a formal agreement with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians with The American Chestnut Foundation to celebrate their important cultural tie to the American chestnut through plantings and outreach;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that The American Chestnut Foundation formally expresses its deep appreciation for and recognition of Rex's years of dedicated service, unwavering enthusiasm, and steadfast contributions to the restoration of the iconic American chestnut tree. To that end, the Board of Directors hereby bestows the most prestigious award at The American Chestnut Foundation, the Burnham Award, to Rex Mann and designates him as Director Emeritus.

RESOLVED THIS 19TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2020

Lisa T. Thomson, President and CEO

Brian C. McCarthy, Board of Directors Chair