

By: Nichols

S.R. No. 139

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to welcome the proud members of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas who are gathering in Austin to celebrate Alabama-Coushatta Day at the State Capitol on February 7, 2023; and

WHEREAS, One of three federally recognized tribes in Texas, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe was originally two tribes, the Alibamus and the Koasatis, who had a similar culture but lived in adjacent lands in Alabama; starting in the 1760s, the two tribes began to migrate westward into what is now East Texas; and

WHEREAS, In 1813, the tribes fought on the side of the revolutionaries in the Mexican War of Independence from Spain, and the new Mexican government granted them tracts of land in gratitude for their service; two decades later, Sam Houston granted the tribes land between the Neches and Sabine Rivers in exchange for not siding with Mexico during the Texas Revolution; members of the tribes served as guides for the Texan army and helped to feed refugees who had fled from Santa Anna's troops; and

WHEREAS, Today, there are 1,200 members of the Alabama-Coushatta, half of whom live on the reservation's 10,200 acres in the Big Thicket of East Texas; the tribe is a fully functioning sovereign government and offers a full complement of

health and human services in addition to providing 250 jobs that employ teachers, doctors, and peace officers; tribe members also maintain a health clinic, a day-care center, a solid waste facility, three churches, and a number of retail shops; and

WHEREAS, Home to one of the most scenic recreational areas in the Lone Star State, the reservation is visited every year by thousands of people who enjoy the fine opportunities for camping, hiking, and picnicking; the reservation is also home to the Naskila Gaming facility and an annual powwow and music festival; and

WHEREAS, Celebrating their rich heritage as they work to build a better tomorrow, the people of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe may indeed take great pride in their unique contributions to the history and culture of Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby recognize February 7, 2023, as Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas Day at the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting members of the tribe; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this special occasion.