

By: Morales of Maverick

H.R. No. 13

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Members of the United Warrior Band of the Seminole  
2 Nation/John Horse Band take great pride in their rich history; and

3           WHEREAS, In the early 18th century, Spanish Florida welcomed  
4 both African Americans escaping slavery and Seminoles moving away  
5 from encroaching colonialism in Alabama and Georgia; the two  
6 imperiled groups intermingled, and people with Seminole cultural  
7 traditions and African forebears eventually became known as Black  
8 Seminoles; after the United States purchased Florida in 1819,  
9 President Andrew Jackson waged the Second Seminole War to drive out  
10 the Seminoles and Black Seminoles; and

11           WHEREAS, Black Seminole hero John Horse, a famed warrior and  
12 diplomat, resettled his people in Indian Territory in the 1840s;  
13 life there proved precarious, with the threat of re-enslavement by  
14 the Creeks as well as by Whites; in 1848, the acting U.S. attorney  
15 general ruled that the Black Seminoles were property that could be  
16 reclaimed; John Horse and his ally, Seminole Chief Coacoochee, led  
17 their followers across the Red River into the frontier, and they  
18 camped near Waco, Fredericksburg, and Fort Duncan in Texas before  
19 finding greater safety in Mexico; in the ensuing years, many of the  
20 Black Seminoles aided the Mexican Army's defense of the border, and  
21 they were rewarded with a land grant; Mr. Horse reportedly attained  
22 the rank of colonel; and

23           WHEREAS, After the Civil War, the U.S. Army began recruiting  
24 experienced Black Seminole warriors from Mexico to help battle

1 raids along the border; the Seminole Negro Indian Scout Detachment  
2 was established in 1870, and the scouts were instrumental in  
3 quelling hostilities on the Texas frontier; they engaged in 26  
4 campaigns, and several received the Medal of Honor for their valor;  
5 many went on to serve alongside the Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Duncan  
6 and Fort Clark; while John Horse did not join the scouts, he served  
7 as an advisor and as an interpreter during negotiations with Indian  
8 tribes; he died in Mexico City in 1882, during a mission to settle a  
9 dispute over Black Seminole land; and

10 WHEREAS, John Horse and the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts  
11 played pivotal roles in the early history of the Lone Star State,  
12 and it is indeed fitting to recognize the United Warrior Band of the  
13 Seminole Nation/John Horse Band for celebrating and preserving a  
14 remarkable legacy of courage, resilience, and independence; now,  
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
17 Legislature hereby honor the United Warrior Band of the Seminole  
18 Nation/John Horse Band and extend to the members sincere best  
19 wishes for the future; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard by the  
22 Texas House of Representatives.