

By: King of Taylor

H.C.R. No. 93

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Expert trackers and couriers and skilled fighters,
2 the Native American scouts who served with the United States Army
3 during the frontier era of the mid- to late 1800s played an
4 important part in United States history; and

5 WHEREAS, The service of these accomplished soldiers began in
6 1866, after Congress passed legislation authorizing the enlistment
7 of American Indians into the United States Army; many of the Native
8 Americans who joined the military over the next three decades
9 served as scouts, and they quickly earned respect for their
10 abilities to track the enemy and guide army forces through
11 wilderness territory; their skills proved especially well-suited
12 during the conflicts between federal forces and American Indian
13 groups that took place in the western states and territories; and

14 WHEREAS, These scouts made a valuable contribution to the
15 settlement of Texas in this era; beginning in 1870, individuals of
16 mixed Seminole and African American heritage who had been living in
17 northern Mexico were recruited as scouts by United States
18 commanders in Texas; based at Fort Duncan, near Eagle Pass, and
19 later at Fort Clark, at present-day Brackettville, the black
20 Seminole soldiers took part in battles with defiant Native American
21 groups in Texas and Mexico and helped tame the turbulent frontier
22 region of the Lone Star State; and

23 WHEREAS, Known for their courage and fighting skills, four of
24 the black Seminole troops earned the Medal of Honor for their

1 actions; Private Adam Payne was the first, receiving the
2 commendation for his role in a battle with the Kiowa in 1874; the
3 following year, scouts John Ward, Pompey Factor, and Isaac Payne
4 put their lives at risk to rescue their commander, Lieutenant John
5 Lapham Bullis, during a fight with Comanche raiders at Eagle's Nest
6 Crossing on the Pecos River; and

7 WHEREAS, Serving as the forerunners of the Native Americans
8 who fought so gallantly in later wars, the American Indian scouts
9 served the United States military with great distinction and
10 provided vital support for the country's westward expansion; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
13 hereby designate August 2007 as American Indian Scouts Month and
14 celebrate the contributions of these individuals as a meaningful
15 chapter in the saga of this nation.