

By: White

H.R. No. 701

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The people of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
2 lost one of their most esteemed leaders with the death of Chief
3 Oscola Clayton Marion Sylestine on January 31, 2013, at the age of
4 80; and

5 WHEREAS, A third-generation descendant of Alabama-Coushatta
6 Sub-Chief Colabe, Clayton Marion Sylestine was born in 1932; he was
7 renamed "Mikko Oscola," meaning flute, in 1993 while serving as
8 second chief, and he was subsequently elected to the lifelong
9 office of principal chief by a unanimous vote; he ably fulfilled the
10 myriad duties of this pivotal role from his inauguration on January
11 1, 1995, until his passing; and

12 WHEREAS, Chief Oscola previously volunteered his noted
13 leadership skills as an elected member of the Tribal Council for
14 five terms, including one as chairman, and he served as an elder in
15 the Indian Village Presbyterian Church; moreover, he worked
16 diligently to share the rich history and traditions of his culture
17 by speaking in local schools and making public appearances on
18 behalf of his tribe; he also advocated for federal recognition of
19 the tribe, which was reinstated in 1987; and

20 WHEREAS, Retired from Champion Paper International, where he
21 worked for 17 years, Chief Oscola pursued a number of traditional
22 crafts; he was a master of river cane basketry, which involved
23 harvesting and splitting bamboo-like cane and arranging it into
24 basket form, and he further distinguished himself in longleaf pine

1 needle basketry; in addition, he played for more than 30 years in
2 the fast-pitch softball circuit, earning a reputation for his
3 rising fastball; and

4 WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to his community, Chief Oscola made a
5 meaningful difference in the lives of his loved ones and fellow
6 citizens alike, and his contributions to the Alabama-Coushatta
7 Tribe of Texas will continue to resonate for years to come; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
10 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Chief Oscola
11 Clayton Marion Sylestine and extend sincere sympathy to the members
12 of his family: to his wife, Ethelyn; to his two sons and two
13 daughters; to his many grandchildren; and to his other relatives
14 and friends; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
17 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Chief
18 Oscola Clayton Marion Sylestine.