

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Proud members of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of
2 Texas are gathering in Austin for Alabama-Coushatta Day at the
3 State Capitol on February 15, 2017; and

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

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

17 WHEREAS, Today, there are 1,200 members of the
18 Alabama-Coushatta, half of whom live on the reservation's 10,200
19 acres in the Big Thicket of East Texas; the tribe is a fully
20 functioning sovereign government, providing a full complement of
21 health and human services, and it is responsible for 250 jobs,
22 including teachers, doctors, and peace officers; members also
23 maintain a health clinic, a day-care center, a solid waste
24 facility, three churches, and retail shops; and

1 WHEREAS, Home to one of the most scenic recreational areas in
2 the Lone Star State, every year, the reservation is visited by
3 nearly 200,000 people who take advantage of the fine opportunities
4 for camping, hiking, and picnicking; the reservation is also home
5 to the newly reopened Naskila Entertainment casino and an annual
6 powwow and music festival; and

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

11 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
12 hereby recognize February 15, 2017, as Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of
13 Texas Day at the State Capitol and extend to the members of the
14 tribe sincere best wishes for a memorable and meaningful visit to
15 Austin.

White

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 40 was adopted by the House on February 23, 2017, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 40 was adopted by the Senate on February 28, 2017, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor