

By: White

H.C.R. No. 40

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.