

By: Hughes

S.C.R. No. 25

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The people of the Mount Tabor Indian Community of
2 East Texas, whose history in this state spans more than 170 years,
3 take enormous pride in the rich heritage that they share; and

4 WHEREAS, Composed of individuals of Cherokee, Yowani
5 Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Muscogee-Creek ancestry, the Mount Tabor
6 community traces its origins to about the year 1845, when a party of
7 families led by John Adair Bell immigrated to Texas and settled
8 approximately six miles south of present-day Kilgore; the community
9 came to be known as Mount Tabor, after the name of the plantation
10 that Mr. Bell established in Rusk County; during the Civil War, the
11 Mount Tabor community swelled with an influx of Cherokee who were
12 supportive of the Confederacy and who were fleeing the fighting in
13 Indian Territory; among their number were the wife and children of
14 Confederate general Stand Watie; following the end of the war,
15 residents of Mount Tabor began to disperse; a number returned to the
16 Cherokee Nation in Indian Territory, but many descendants of the
17 early settlers continue to live in Rusk and Smith Counties; and

18 WHEREAS, Those associated with Mount Tabor have maintained
19 ties to a tribal organization since the community's inception;
20 today, the Texas Band of Cherokee Indians of the Mount Tabor Indian
21 Community is a continuation of the Texas Cherokees and Associated
22 Bands (TCAB), which was organized in 1871 by Colonel William Penn
23 Adair; in addition to John Adair Bell and William Penn Adair,
24 notable leaders of the community have included Chief Chicken

1 Trotter, also known as Devereaux Jarrett Bell, who signed the 1843
2 Treaty of Birds Fort on behalf of the Cherokee, and, in the 20th
3 century, TCAB chairs W. W. Keeler, who served as principal chief of
4 the Cherokee Nation and as CEO of Phillips Petroleum Company, and
5 Foster T. Bean, who served as mayor of Kilgore for more than 20
6 years; and

7 WHEREAS, The original settlers of Mount Tabor and their
8 descendants have contributed in myriad ways to their communities,
9 their state, and their nation; they have worn the uniform of every
10 branch of this country's armed forces and taken part in every
11 conflict from the Civil War to Iraq and Afghanistan; in civilian
12 life, they have served in roles ranging from police officers and
13 judges to ministers and school teachers; and

14 WHEREAS, Throughout its history, Texas has drawn strength
15 from the great diversity of its people and cultures, and it is a
16 privilege to recognize the Mount Tabor Indian Community for the
17 indelible imprint it has made on the Lone Star State; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
20 hereby recognize the Mount Tabor Indian Community of Texas and
21 commend it on its many valuable contributions to this state; and, be
22 it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for the Mount Tabor Indian Community as an expression of
25 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.