H.R. No. 2108

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The members of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas are mourning the loss of a respected and beloved leader with the passing of Chief Mikko Colabe III Clem Fain Sylestine on May 21, 2019, at the age of 91; and

WHEREAS, Mikko Colabe III was born on November 4, 1927, on the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation to Bronson Cooper Sylestine, the tribe's principal chief from 1936 to 1969, and Monzanda Thompson Sylestine; a member of the Granddaddy Long Legs Clan, he was a direct descendant of Chief Colabe, who served as the second chief to the Principal Chief Antone in the early 1800s; he was also the husband of the late Leona Abbey Sylestine, a well-known artisan; and

WHEREAS, After graduating with a bachelor's degree from Austin College in Sherman in 1952, Mikko Colabe III worked as a teacher and coach at the Woodville and Goodrich school districts and at Southmayd, Holland, and Shepherd High Schools until his retirement in 1988; he was also employed by the Sam Houston Electric Cooperative, which assigned him to work directly with his community as a job developer through the Job Training Partnership Act; and

WHEREAS, Chief Colabe III was an influential member of his tribe throughout most of his adult life, and his record of service included his election to the Tribal Council and his appointment as its chair; he went on to follow in the footsteps of his father by being elected second chief of the tribe on October 19, 1994; after nearly two decades in that post, he was named principal chief on October 5, 2013; he also shared his time and wisdom as an elder at the Indian Village Presbyterian Church located on the reservation; and

WHEREAS, Guided by his steadfast concern for the needs of his people, Chief Mikko Colabe III lived a rich and purposeful life, and he will be remembered with lasting admiration and gratitude by the community he so faithfully served; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Chief Mikko Colabe III Clem Fain Sylestine and extend deepest condolences to all those who mourn his passing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Chief Mikko Colabe III.

White

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2108 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 26, 2019.

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Chief Clerk of the House