

By: White

H.R. No. 2108

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The members of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas  
2 are mourning the loss of a respected and beloved leader with the  
3 passing of Chief Mikko Colabe III Clem Fain Sylestine on May 21,  
4 2019, at the age of 91; and

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

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

20           WHEREAS, Chief Colabe III was an influential member of his  
21 tribe throughout most of his adult life, and his record of service  
22 included his election to the Tribal Council and his appointment as  
23 its chair; he went on to follow in the footsteps of his father by  
24 being elected second chief of the tribe on October 19, 1994; after

1 nearly two decades in that post, he was named principal chief on  
2 October 5, 2013; he also shared his time and wisdom as an elder at  
3 the Indian Village Presbyterian Church located on the reservation;  
4 and

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

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

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