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By:  White H.R. No. 64

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas lost an admired leader with the passing of Principal Chief Herbert G. Johnson Sr. on August 9, 2021, at the age of 79; and

WHEREAS, A member of the Beaver Clan, Herbert Johnson was born on April 3, 1942, on the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation near Livingston; after graduating from high school, he studied at Jacksonville College, where he enjoyed a successful basketball career; among his many achievements, he earned All-American recognition in 1963, and he was later honored by the college as a Distinguished Alumnus; he also briefly attended the University of Houston, and he went on to obtain certification from Kilgore College and the Angelina Criminal Justice Center as an East Texas Police Academy reserve officer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson served two terms on the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Council and worked as the tribal security director for more than two decades before his retirement in 2012; the following year, he was elected as the tribe's second chief, and he held that position until January 1, 2020, when he was installed as principal chief, or Mikko Choba Skalaaba; along the way, he served with the tribe's volunteer fire department and managed tribal softball and basketball leagues, and he was a member of the Big Sandy Independent School District Board of Trustees for 48 years; a man of deep faith, he was also a deacon and elder of the Indian Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Johnson benefited from the love and support of his wife, Deloris; he was the proud father of five children, Davie, Delbert, Retha, Herbert, and Heather, and he had the pleasure of welcoming into his family numerous grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to his community, Mikko Choba Skalaaba Herbert Johnson made a meaningful difference in the lives of his loved ones and fellow citizens alike, and his contributions to the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas will continue to resonate in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory of Principal Chief Herbert G. Johnson Sr. and extend deepest sympathy to all 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 Herbert Johnson.