

By: White

H.R. No. 66

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

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

11           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
12 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory  
13 of Principal Chief Herbert G. Johnson Sr. and extend deepest  
14 sympathy to all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

15           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
16 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
17 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Chief  
18 Herbert Johnson.