87R23728 BHH-D

By:  West S.C.R. No. 48

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The very name of Texas is derived from the Caddo word *tayshas*, meaning "friend," and such treaties as the 1838 Treaty of Live Oak Point between the Republic of Texas and the Lipan Apache Tribe, as well as various treaties made with the Karankawa, Comanche, and Cherokee nations, reflect attempts to forge a friendly relationship between Indigenous peoples and the republic and state governments of Texas; and

WHEREAS, The promises and terms of these treaties have not always been upheld, however, which has resulted in the loss of life, property, and culture, and these historical misunderstandings and tragedies are still in need of healing; and

WHEREAS, Since the early 1990s, dozens of cities and a growing number of states have adopted the observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day to celebrate the history and contributions of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 as part of the International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; coinciding with Columbus Day, the observance has become an important means of focusing attention on the native peoples of the Americas, past, present, and future; and

WHEREAS, The area now known as Texas has been home to Indigenous populations since time immemorial, and over the millennia, the region has been home to numerous tribes with their own unique cultures and ways of life; and

WHEREAS, Among other tribes, inhabitants of Texas have included the Alabama-Coushatta, Atakapa, Karankawa, Mariame, and Akokisa along the Gulf Coast, the Caddo, Choctaw, Anadarko, Cherokee, and Wichita in North and East Texas, the Manso and Suma and the people of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo in West Texas, the Coahuiltecans, Yaqui, Kickapoo, and Carizzo in South Texas, and the Cocoimes, Chizos, Tobosos, Tawankonis, and Wacos on the North Central Plains; in addition, numerous traditionally nomadic peoples, such as the Comanche, Kiowa Apache, Arapaho, and Lipan Apache, have lived throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, The continued presence of Native Americans during the era of the Indian Termination Policy of the mid-1900s and in the decades since has led to an active and thriving Indigenous community in Texas; today, the Lone Star State is home to people from diverse tribal nations from across the Americas, and the effort to retain ancestral memories, languages, and cultures is ongoing and vital; the observation of Indigenous Peoples' Day raises awareness of this rich heritage and the wide-ranging contributions Native Americans have made, are making, and will continue to make to our state and nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remain in effect until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally passed by the legislature.