

By: Ashby

H.R. No. 277

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud members of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of
2 Texas are gathering in Austin for Alabama-Coushatta Day at the
3 State Capitol on February 18, 2025; and

4 WHEREAS, One of three federally recognized tribes in Texas,
5 the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe was originally two tribes, the Alibamus
6 and the Koasatis, who had a similar culture but lived in adjacent
7 lands in Alabama; starting in the 1760s, the two tribes began to
8 migrate westward into what is now East Texas; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1813, the tribes fought on the side of the
10 revolutionaries in the Mexican War of Independence from Spain, and
11 the new Mexican government granted them tracts of land in gratitude
12 for their service; two decades later, Sam Houston granted the
13 tribes land between the Neches and Sabine Rivers in exchange for not
14 siding with Mexico during the Texas Revolution; members of the
15 tribes served as guides for the Texan army and helped to feed
16 refugees who had fled from Santa Anna's troops; and

17 WHEREAS, Today, there are more than 1,300 members of the
18 Alabama-Coushatta, about half of whom live on the tribe's
19 10,200-acre reservation in the Big Thicket of East Texas; the tribe
20 is a fully functioning sovereign government, providing a full
21 complement of health and human services, and it employs some 250
22 people, including teachers, doctors, and peace officers; members
23 also maintain a health clinic, a day-care center, a solid waste
24 facility, three churches, and retail shops; and

1 WHEREAS, The Alabama-Coushatta reservation encompasses
2 scenic recreational areas, and the area is visited every year by
3 outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy the fine opportunities for camping,
4 hiking, and picnicking; the reservation is also home to the Naskila
5 Casino and an annual powwow; and

6 WHEREAS, Celebrating their rich heritage as they work to
7 build a bright future, the people of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe
8 may indeed take great pride in their unique contributions to the
9 history and culture of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
11 Legislature hereby recognize February 18, 2025, as
12 Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas Day at the State Capitol and
13 extend a warm welcome to the visiting members of the tribe.