

By: Nichols

S.R. No. 91

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to welcome the proud members of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas who are gathering in Austin to celebrate Alabama-Coushatta Day at the State Capitol on February 18, 2025; and

WHEREAS, One of three federally recognized tribes in Texas, the Alabama-Coushatta originated as separate tribes, the Alibamu and the Koasati, who had a similar culture and were part of the Muscogee Creek Confederacy in the Southeast; in the 1760s, the two tribes began to migrate into what is now East Texas; and

WHEREAS, In 1813, the tribes participated in the Mexican War of Independence from Spain, and the newly formed Mexican government offered them tracts of land as an expression of gratitude for their service; two decades later, Sam Houston granted the tribe land between the Neches and Sabine Rivers in exchange for their assistance in guiding and helping to feed the Texan army who had fled from Santa Anna's army during the Texas Revolution; and

WHEREAS, The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas comprises approximately 1,200 members, half of whom live on the reservation's 10,200 acres in the Big Thicket area of East Texas; the tribe is a fully functioning sovereign government with a full array of health and human services, which provides employment to hundreds of members who serve as teachers, doctors, and peace

officers, and the community sustains businesses, including a health clinic, a day-care center, a solid waste facility, churches, and retail shops; and

WHEREAS, Home to one of the most scenic recreational areas in the state, the reservation is visited every year by thousands of people who enjoy camping, hiking, and picnicking; the reservation is also home to the Naskila Casino and an annual powwow and music festival; and

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

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby recognize February 11, 2025, as Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas Day at the Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting members of the tribe; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this special occasion.