



The State of Texas House of Representatives

H.R. No. 787

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Although the United States government acknowledged receipt of the Tap Pilam-Coahuiltecan Nation's petition for federal recognition in 1997, the tribe is currently unrecognized by the State of Texas or by the United States; and

WHEREAS, There are now more than 550 federally recognized tribes in the United States; this unique designation conveys a legal relationship between these tribes or groups and the U.S. government; and

WHEREAS, The Coahuiltecan tribe's distinguished history in the Lone Star State merits strong consideration for official acknowledgment from the State of Texas and the United States; and

WHEREAS, In the late 1600s Spanish explorers first encountered the Coahuiltecan tribe, whose name is derived from the state of Coahuila in Mexico; the tribe members had seasonal attachments to their campgrounds and relied on their hunting and gathering acumen and skills to survive; and

WHEREAS, To increase the number of Spanish citizens on the frontier, various Native American groups were converted to Christianity, and five missions were established between 1718 and 1731 in San Antonio, including the San Antonio de Valero, San Jose, Concepcion de Acuna, San Juan Capistrano, and San Francisco de la Espada; moreover, the Coahuiltecan language was translated into Spanish to make the conversion process easier; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Coahuiltecan tribe and other Native American groups performed important duties at the missions, such as constructing dams and irrigation canals, working in the fields and as the first cowboys, and helping to build what became communities in present-day Texas and northeastern Mexico; and

WHEREAS, While many Native American tribes eventually became displaced and assimilated in the 18th and 19th centuries, the Coahuiltecan tribe's proud rituals and traditions have endured, and aspects of its daily life are the same as those in use at the time of its first contact with Europeans; and

WHEREAS, Descendants of this intrepid tribe celebrate time-honored occasions, such as Indian Decoration Day, and also use ceremonial music and dress as ways of upholding tribal customs; in


addition, renewed efforts to ascertain more knowledge about their ancestry are ongoing; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, the Coahuiltecas have played an integral role in Texas' development, and the Native American tribes who were the first Texans have greatly enriched our shared heritage with their culture; and

WHEREAS, Given the tribe's justifiable pride in its distinct history and culture, the Texas House of Representatives finds that it is indeed appropriate to bestow such recognition as will encourage the preservation of the Tap Pilam-Coahuiltecas' unique cultural heritage and to support those activities consistent with the state's interest in preserving all of Texas' diverse cultural and natural resources for future generations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 77th Texas Legislature hereby recognize the Tap Pilam-Coahuiltecan Nation for its immeasurable contributions as an indigenous people of Texas and commend the tribe's efforts to preserve its cultural and spiritual heritage and traditions.

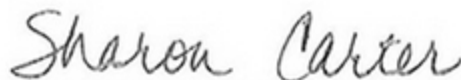
Turner of Coleman



Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 787 was adopted by the House on May 10, 2001, by a non-record vote.





Chief Clerk of the House