

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017

HR 1025

4
5 By: Representative S. Meeks
6

7 HOUSE RESOLUTION

8 RECOGNIZING THE CHICKAMAUGA CHEROKEE PEOPLE AS
9 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.
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11 Subtitle

12 RECOGNIZING THE CHICKAMAUGA CHEROKEE
13 PEOPLE AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TO THE STATE
14 OF ARKANSAS.
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20 WHEREAS, the Chickamauga Cherokee were a group that separated from the
21 greater body of the Cherokee tribes during the American Revolution and
22 relocated to a more isolated area to gain distance from colonists'
23 encroachments; and
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25 WHEREAS, frontier Americans associated this band with their new town on
26 the Chickamauga Creek, and began to refer to them as the Chickamaugas, and 5
27 years later, once more they moved further west and southwest into what is now
28 Alabama, establishing 5 larger settlements; and they were then more commonly
29 known as the "Lower Town Cherokee"; and
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31 WHEREAS, the Chickamauga Cherokee people entered into the Treaty of
32 Hopewell on November 28, 1785, with the United States of America, which
33 states, "The said Indians for themselves and their respective tribes and
34 towns do acknowledge all the Cherokee to be under the protection of the
35 United States of America"; and
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1 WHEREAS, under increased United States Government pressure to cede its
2 lands and remove to the west of the Mississippi River, and believing removal
3 was inevitable and trying to get the best lands possible, the Chickamauga
4 Cherokee people agreed with President Thomas Jefferson in the spring of 1808
5 to be removed to Dardanelle on the Arkansas River; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Chickamauga Cherokee people lived in hiding for most of
8 the past 200 years for fear of being exterminated, separated from their
9 families and removed to a reservation or losing their land; and
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11 WHEREAS, the Chickamauga Cherokee people could not vote until 1924, and
12 could not freely teach their children their religions or customs until
13 passage of the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Chickamauga Cherokee people have served admirably in the
16 Armed Forces of the United States and served in elected and appointed
17 positions in local and state government; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Chickamauga Cherokee people want to protect and share
20 their customs and heritage for current and future generations,
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22 NOW THEREFORE,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL
24 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 THAT the House of Representatives recognize the Chickamauga Cherokee
27 people as an indigenous people to our state and that under the Treaty of
28 Hopewell and laws of the State of Arkansas, the Chickamauga Cherokee people
29 have the same rights and protections that are afforded to all of the state's
30 citizens.
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, a copy shall be
33 provided to the leader of the Chickamauga Cherokee people by the Chief Clerk
34 of the House of Representatives.
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