

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

*As Engrossed: H2/28/17*

HR 1025

4  
5 By: Representative S. Meeks

6  
7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 *RECOGNIZING THE CHICKAMAUGA CHEROKEE PEOPLE'S UNIQUE*  
9 *HERITAGE AND IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF*  
10 *ARKANSAS.*

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13 **Subtitle**

14 *RECOGNIZING THE CHICKAMAUGA CHEROKEE*  
15 *PEOPLE'S UNIQUE HERITAGE AND IMPORTANT*  
16 *CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.*

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19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL  
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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23  
24 WHEREAS, the Chickamauga Cherokee were a group that separated from the  
25 greater body of the Cherokee tribes during the American Revolution and  
26 relocated to a more isolated area to gain distance from colonists'  
27 encroachments; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, frontier Americans associated this band with their new town on  
30 the Chickamauga Creek, and began to refer to them as the Chickamaugas, and 5  
31 years later, once more they moved further west and southwest into what is now  
32 Alabama, establishing 5 larger settlements; and they were then more commonly  
33 known as the "Lower Town Cherokee"; and

34  
35 WHEREAS, the Chickamauga Cherokee people entered into the Treaty of  
36 Hopewell on November 28, 1785, with the United States of America, which



1 states, "The said Indians for themselves and their respective tribes and  
2 towns do acknowledge all the Cherokee to be under the protection of the  
3 United States of America"; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, under increased United States Government pressure to cede its  
6 lands and remove to the west of the Mississippi River, and believing removal  
7 was inevitable and trying to get the best lands possible, the Chickamauga  
8 Cherokee people agreed with President Thomas Jefferson in the spring of 1808  
9 to be removed to Dardanelle on the Arkansas River; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Chickamauga Cherokee people lived in hiding for most of  
12 the past 200 years for fear of being exterminated, separated from their  
13 families and removed to a reservation or losing their land; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, the Chickamauga Cherokee people could not vote until 1924, and  
16 could not freely teach their children their religions or customs until  
17 passage of the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, the Chickamauga Cherokee people have served admirably in the  
20 Armed Forces of the United States and served in elected and appointed  
21 positions in local and state government; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, the Chickamauga Cherokee people want to protect and share  
24 their customs and heritage for current and future generations,

25  
26 NOW THEREFORE,

27 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL  
28 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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30 THAT the House of Representatives recognize the Chickamauga Cherokee  
31 *people's unique heritage and important contributions* to our state and that  
32 under the Treaty of Hopewell and laws of the State of Arkansas, the  
33 Chickamauga Cherokee people have the same rights and protections that are  
34 afforded to all of the state's citizens.

35  
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, a copy shall be

1 provided to the leader of the Chickamauga Cherokee people by the Chief Clerk  
2 of the House of Representatives.

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*/s/S. Meeks*

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