

By: Senator G. Stubblefield

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE CHICKAMAUGA CHEROKEE PEOPLE AS
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

RECOGNIZING THE CHICKAMAUGA CHEROKEE
PEOPLE AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TO THE STATE
OF ARKANSAS.

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

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

WHEREAS, the Chickamauga Cherokee people entered into the Treaty of Hopewell on November 28, 1785, with the United States of America, which states, "The said Indians for themselves and their respective tribes and towns do acknowledge all the Cherokee to be under the protection of the United States of America"; and

WHEREAS, under increased United States Government pressure to cede its lands and remove to the west of the Mississippi River, and believing removal



was inevitable and trying to get the best lands possible, the Chickamauga Cherokee people agreed with President Thomas Jefferson in the spring of 1808 to be removed to Dardanelle on the Arkansas River; and

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate recognizes the Chickamauga Cherokee people as an indigenous people to our state and that under the Treaty of Hopewell and laws of the State of Arkansas, the Chickamauga Cherokee people have the same rights and protections that are afforded to all of the state's citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, a copy shall be provided to the leader of the Chickamauga Cherokee people by the Secretary of the Senate.