

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 227

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To recognize the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana as an Indian tribe.

WHEREAS, the Indian Removal Act of 1830 forced many Indians living east of the Mississippi River to sell their lands and move to less fertile lands on a Western reservation that would not be taken from them; and

WHEREAS, the five tribes most affected by the Indian Removal Act of 1830 through the loss of lives, homes, and land were the Chickasaw, Creek, Choctaw, Seminole, and Cherokee; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Removal Act of 1830 caused Indians living in the South to embark on what became known as the "Trail of Tears" from 1830 to 1842; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, many small groups of the five tribes escaped and crossed the Mississippi River into Louisiana and settled near the central and western part of Louisiana in the present-day parishes of Rapides, Vernon, Natchitoches, and Calcasieu, which was referred to as "No Man's Land" or "Rio Hondo"; and

WHEREAS, the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana exists today, and the tribe has full documentation of bloodlines of all tribal members, as well as many documented sources regarding the activities of the tribe; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the state of Louisiana recognize Indian tribes within its borders, to support their tribal aspirations, to preserve their cultural heritage and improve their economic conditions, and to assist them in the achievement of their just rights.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana as an Indian tribe of the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United States and the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs are hereby memorialized, requested, and urged to take such steps as are necessary to effect the formal recognition of the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana as an Indian tribe, and to acknowledge that the rights of the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana are no less than those of other Indian tribes in the United States, and, accordingly, to take such executive or congressional action as may be appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the United States, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and the director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States Department of the Interior.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES