

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 59

By Carr

A RESOLUTION to support the restoration of the name "Kuwohi" to the mountain presently known as Clingmans Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has begun efforts to petition the federal government to change the name of the mountain currently known as Clingmans Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to the original Cherokee name, Kuwohi, which translates to "Mulberry Place"; and

WHEREAS, Clingmans Dome, which straddles the border between Tennessee and North Carolina, is the geographical high point near the center of the ancestral Cherokee land and has cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Cherokee; and

WHEREAS, for more than 10,000 years, Cherokee people occupied the mountains that now comprise the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and throughout that time, they called the highest mountain Kuwohi for the mulberries the Cherokee gathered at the base of the mountain for medicinal and other purposes; and

WHEREAS, Kuwohi was visited by medicine people who prayed and sought guidance from the creator, and the mountain is well documented in oral teachings of Cherokee stories; and

WHEREAS, when the Cherokee people were forced onto the Trail of Tears, the mountain Kuwohi provided refuge for some Cherokee and enabled them to avoid removal from their ancestral homeland; those fortunate few later became the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and

WHEREAS, Kuwohi was renamed in the 1850s by a geographer named Arnold Guyot, who was commissioned to survey the mountains of East Tennessee and Western North

Carolina and who named the mountain "Clingmans Dome" after a United States Senator from North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, we are proud to join with other local and state governmental bodies who have voiced their support to restoring the original Cherokee name to the mountain presently known as Clingmans Dome; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we support the efforts by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Council to restore the name "Kuwohi" to the mountain presently known as Clingmans Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the United States Board on Geographic Names, the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, and each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.