

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 81

By Stewart

A RESOLUTION to designate 2010 as Tanasi/Tennessee Native American History Year.

WHEREAS, the area that now encompasses the state of Tennessee was once the homeland and tribal hunting grounds of a number of Historic First Nations People who had great attachment to the land and staunchly defended their right to live, hunt, and draw nourishment from that land; and

WHEREAS, the existence of those Historic First Nations People is exhibited by place names and historic sites across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, there are over 46,000 Native American Indians who are citizens of the State of Tennessee, many of whom descend from the Historic First Nations of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Native American Indians have made advances in the growth and development of the United States, the State of Tennessee, and their local communities, first through history and now through human and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Native American Indians have made important contributions to the development of business, industry, education, the arts, and other areas which have made this country and this state a good place in which to live, and they will assuredly continue to make significant contributions in the future; and

WHEREAS, many contributions made by Native American Indians are unknown and unrecognized by many Tennesseans, and appropriate actions should be undertaken to share this information and educate the citizens of this great state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we hereby designate 2010 as "Tanasi/Tennessee Native American History Year" in Tennessee, with special designation of certain months and days as follows:

January 2010 – Yuchi Education Month

February 2010 – Chickasaw Education Month

April 2010 – Choctaw Education Month

May 2010 – Shawnee Education Month

September 2010 – Cherokee Education Month

September 27, 2010 – American Indian Day

October 2010 – Tennessee American Indian Month

October 12, 2010 – Day of Healing

November 2010 – Trail of Tears Month

November 26, 2010 – National American Indian Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that during "Tanasi/Tennessee Native American History Year," schools, clubs, and civic and religious organizations are encouraged to recognize the contributions of the Historic First Peoples of Tennessee with suitable ceremonies and fellowship designed to promote greater understanding and brotherhood between Native American Indians and the other citizens of the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Education; the Department of Tourist Development; the Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Parks; and the Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs shall make, within the limits of funds available for such purpose, the schedule of monthly designations and resource information available to all people of this state regarding Tanasi/Tennessee Native American Indian History Year and the observance thereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit an appropriately enrolled copy of this resolution to the commissioner of the Department of Education, the commissioner of the Department of Tourist Development, the commissioner of the Department of Environment and Conservation, and the chair of the Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs.