

By:

Chris Perry

S.R. No.

989

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Texas Band of Yaqui Indians; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Band of Yaqui Indians are descendants of the Yaqui Indian Nation whose members inhabited the Sonoran Desert region of Mexico and the Southern United States long before modern borders were established; and

WHEREAS, The tribal members were driven out of Mexico under threat of genocide; under the leadership of Ya'ut Ave'lino, the Yaqui Indians traveled north, and by the 1870s, a band of tribespeople had settled in the Township of Presidio and Fort Davis; and

WHEREAS, Surviving members of the Yaqui tribe were instructed to never speak of their identity in public, as they continued to fear for their survival, yet their history was passed down through oral tribal storytelling; descendants of Ya'ut Ave'lino contributed information relating to their tribe's unique past to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in Arizona, and documentation exists today at the Presidio Historical Society and the Overland Trails Museum in Fort Davis; the members of the Texas Band of Yaqui Indians now exist openly and have preserved their traditions by establishing the Texas Yaqui Bow Leaders Coyote Society, which is based in Lubbock; and

WHEREAS, The Yaqui Indians of Sonora were the subject of a

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series of ethnohistorical expeditions organized by Texas Tech University beginning in 1934; a commemorative symposium and expedition celebrating the 50-year relationship between the university and the Yaqui Indians took place in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Despite many years of adversity, the Texas Band of Yaqui Indians represents a proud and noble group of people who were never conquered, and tribe members work diligently to pay tribute to their ancestral history and preserve the Yaqui Indian culture and language; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby honor the members of the Texas Band of Yaqui Indians and extend to them best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in their honor and as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.