

2023 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 176

Commending Stephen R. Adkins.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 24, 2023

WHEREAS, Stephen R. Adkins, chief of the Chickahominy Tribe and an esteemed public servant in Charles City County, has made significant contributions to the community through his leadership and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Adkins has been chief of the Chickahominy Tribe for 12 years, leading a tribe with a rich cultural heritage and history in the region that has been recognized by the Commonwealth since 1983; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Adkins served on the Charles City County School Board, where he became aware of a void in the way the story of Virginia Indians was told in history classrooms in the Commonwealth and began working to rectify this shortcoming; and

WHEREAS, for 20 years, Stephen Adkins worked with lawmakers and other tribes to see that Indian tribes in the Commonwealth received federal recognition; and

WHEREAS, the culmination of Stephen Adkins' efforts came on January 29, 2018, when President Donald J. Trump signed the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017, which extends federal recognition to the Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Upper Mattaponi, Rappahannock, Nansemond, and Monacan tribes in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Adkins helped the Chickahominy Tribe in its efforts to reacquire its ancestral lands on the 800-acre Mamanahunt peninsula in December 2021; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Adkins earned a bachelor's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and was a UKROP Community Vision Award Winner in 1991; and

WHEREAS, with great dedication and sense of purpose, Stephen Adkins has helped to preserve the history, culture, and way of life of Virginia's Indian tribes for the benefit of generations to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That Stephen R. Adkins, chief of the Chickahominy Tribe, hereby be commended for his legacy of service as a tribal leader, public servant, and advocate; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Stephen R. Adkins as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for his contributions to the Commonwealth.

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