

## Resolution

**WHEREAS**, The Kinney County Commissioner's Court is proud to recognize the Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas, descendants of the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts for their historical contribution to the settlement of Texas and Kinney County.

**WHEREAS**, In late October or early November 1849, approximately 250 Seminoles departed from the Oklahoma Indian Territory. They embarked upon a 9 month journey to freedom and land ownership in Mexico. During the winter they camped on the Llano River, near Fredericksburg, where they were joined by Kickapoos lead by Chief Papicua. They now numbered approximately 300 people, women, children and men. They entered Kinney County in July 1850, and camped at Las Moras Springs. Seminole leaders Coacoochee (Wild Cat) and John Horse encountered U. S. Army Captain John Sprague. Sprague had served in Florida and was familiar with the Seminole leaders. Sprague allowed the Seminoles to camp near the soldiers.

**WHEREAS**, In July 1850 the Seminoles were camped near the Rio Grande, North of Eagle Pass. On land known as the Lehman Ranch, trees were obtained to construct log rafts. The log rafts were used to ford the Rio Grande. In Mexico they met with Colonel Juan Manuel Maldonado, Inspector of the Colonial Militar de Guerrero. They were accepted as military colonists, and provided with land, farming implements, and tools, for providing protection of the Mexican Northern border, defending the area against raiding Comanche, Lipan Apache and the occasional slaver.

**WHEREAS**, Following the Civil War, the Army was called into service in Texas to defend settlements and travelers from raiding Apache and Comanche Indians. The Army desperately needed experienced fighters who knew the Texas Mexican border terrain. In 1870 the Seminole-Negro Indians were recruited as U.S. Army Scouts. They were highly regarded and praised by their commanders for being excellent fighters, trackers, hunters and marksmen.

**WHEREAS**, During service from 1870 to 1914, the scouts participated in twenty-six expeditions. Scouts were engaged in twelve battles without a single fatal scout casualty. Four of the scouts were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery during battle.

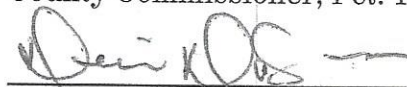
**WHEREAS**, The enrolled members of the Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas are descendants of the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts, who served the United States Army from 1870 to 1914.

**WHEREAS**, The Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas continues to promote the unique history and heritage of the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts in celebrations and education.

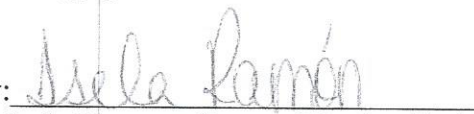
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Kinney County Commissioner's Court hereby recognizes the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts and their descendants as the Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas, for the remarkable contributions they have made to the history of Texas and Kinney County.



Tully Shahan, Kinney County Judge

  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Certified by:

  
Isela Ramon, County-District Clerk