

HOUSE RESOLUTION 217

By White

A RESOLUTION to welcome our guests from Panama to Capitol Hill.

WHEREAS, the members of this body are always pleased to welcome visitors who are eager to learn about the legislative process and our form of government; and

WHEREAS, from February 17-19, 2020, a delegation of the Emberá people living in Panama will be visiting the General Assembly to learn about Tennessee's educational systems; and

WHEREAS, during their visit to Capitol Hill, the delegation will tour the State Capitol, hear presentations from various State education officials, and meet with Governor Bill Lee; and

WHEREAS, they will attend a meeting of the House Education Committee, and they will be honored in the House chambers during a floor session; and

WHEREAS, the Emberá are an indigenous people of South America; approximately 33,000 people living in Panama identify as Emberá; and

WHEREAS, the Emberá people mostly live in the Chocó department; for the Panamanian Emberá, the Chocó and its river systems are their ancestral homelands; and

WHEREAS, the Emberá people are renowned for their fundamentally egalitarian social and political organization; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, the National Assembly of Panama established a territory under a collective land title of the Emberá and Wounaan peoples; this leadership structure, officially known as Congreso General Emberá Wounaan de la Comarca, provides legal protection for their land; and

WHEREAS, the Panamanian Emberá visiting Capitol Hill are Yoira Machado, Crisolo Isarama, Raulino Pena, and Francisco Agape, with Raul Cabrera serving as their translator; and

WHEREAS, whatever the differences between the Emberá people and Tennesseans, we are both proud to work together to improve cultural understanding and exchange knowledge and ideas; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we welcome our guests representing the Emberá people of Panama and extend to them our best wishes for a pleasant and productive stay in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.