

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 44th Legislature (1993)

HOUSE

RESOLUTION NO. 1013

By: McCorkell

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution recognizing the contributions of Poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Yevgeny Yevtushenko found his poetic voice after personally observing the funeral of the totalitarian dictator Josef Stalin in 1953 when over 150 persons were trampled to death in Trubnaia Square trying to view his body and concluded that Stalin's greatest crime went far beyond the many thousands and even millions of people that he had shot or imprisoned; it was the corruption of the human spirit by teaching the peoples of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to walk over people; and

WHEREAS, Yevgeny Yevtushenko was perhaps the preeminent voice in the USSR speaking against the twin evils of Stalinism and anti-Semitism and ultimately contributing to dramatic reforms in the former USSR in recent years that have brought democracy and hope to the peoples who had lived under totalitarian and dictatorial rule most of their lives; and

WHEREAS, Yevgeny Yevtushenko chose to forego the international acclaim that accrued to other Soviet intellectuals who emigrated to the West in order to remain in the USSR and to join with others to express their opposition to the Soviet regime at great personal risk and artistic sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, Yevgeny Yevtushenko's public stances in defense of artistic freedom in the former USSR and the state's actions against many of its most famous artists and writers, including Solzhenitsyn who he defended by saying to the head of the KGB in 1971 that "I will die on the barricades if Solzhenitsyn is imprisoned again", shall be recognized by historians for revealing the Soviet regime's assault on the human spirit and freedom; and

WHEREAS, Yevgeny Yevtushenko is recognized as one of this century's greatest literary figures and will be acclaimed as one of history's foremost voices in the struggle of the human spirit against the evil of political oppression; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma is most fortunate to have Yevgeny Yevtushenko in residence at the University of Tulsa.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives is honored by the presence of Yevgeny Yevtushenko and wishes to recognize his historic contributions in behalf of the oppressed peoples of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and for all oppressed persons anywhere and at any time.

THAT a copy of this resolution be dispatched to Yevgeny Yevtushenko.

44-1-6869

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