

ENROLLED HOUSE

RESOLUTION NO. 1066 By: Weaver, Adair, Adkins, Anthony, Askins, Bastin, Begley, Benson, Beutler, Blackburn, Bonny, Boyd (Betty), Boyd (Laura), Breckinridge, Bryant, Case, Claunch, Coleman, Cotner, Cox, Cozort, Crocker, Culver, Dank, Davis, Deutschendorf, Dunegan, Dunlap, Eddins, Ervin, Erwin, Ferguson, Fields, Glover, Graves, Gray, Greenwood, Hager, Hamilton, Hastings, Hefner, Hiett, Hilliard, Holt, Hutchison, Johnson, Key, Kinnamon, Kirby, Kouba, Langmacher, Leist, Maddux, Mass, Matlock, McCorkell, Miller, Mitchell, Morgan, O'Neal, Paulk, Peltier, Perry, Pettigrew, Phillips, Plunk, Pope (Clay), Pope (Tim), Ramsey, Reese, Rhodes, Rice, Roach, Roberts, Ross, Sadler, Satterfield, Seikel, Settle, Smaligo, Smith (Bill), Smith (Dale), Staggs, Stanley, Steidley, Stites, Stottlemire, Sullivan (John), Sullivan (Leonard), Taylor, Thomas, Thornbrugh, Toure, Tyler, Vaughn, Voskuhl, Webb, Weese, Wells and Worthen

A Resolution commending and thanking the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) of the United States of America, a fraternal organization and benevolent society, was founded in 1868 by 15 actors and other entertainers in New York City. Today, the BPOE has a membership of approximately 1,300,000 with 50 state groups and 2,300 local groups; and

WHEREAS, the original social organization quickly evolved into a charitable association and as such continued to prosper and grow. By the time of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, the Elks had earned the reputation as a leader when fellow citizens needed assistance. Earlier they responded to assist victims of the Johnstown Flood. They were also among the first to provide emergency aid in the San Francisco earthquake; and

WHEREAS, charity, one of the four cardinal virtues to which the order subscribes, was institutionalized in the Elks National Foundation in 1928, when the Foundation was started with a grant from the Grand Lodge. Today, the Foundation is the main charitable focus of the order, providing student scholarships, supporting state association charitable projects, providing assistance to hospitalized veterans and engaging in other benevolent acts; and

WHEREAS, a short time after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, the Oklahoma Elks Association donated \$11,000 to the Oklahoma Food Bank. Barely a month after the tragedy, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America had contributed \$100,000 to the Disaster Relief Fund; and

WHEREAS, about 200 children lost a parent, guardian or other close relative in the bombing. It is estimated that between seven and nine million dollars will be required to provide a secondary education for these children; and

WHEREAS, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America has donated \$115,000 to the Heartland Scholarship Fund, the largest single donation to date. This contribution will enable the State Regents for Higher Education to assist the children affected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives commends the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America for its many charitable contributions.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives thanks the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America for its donation of a combined total of \$226,000 for relief and scholarship efforts in the wake of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Honorable Vincent Collura, Grand Exalted Ruler; Ted Bird, President of the Oklahoma Elks Association; and Bob Martin, President-Elect of the Oklahoma Elks Association.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 8th day of May, 1996.

Speaker

of the House of
Representatives