

ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 51

By: Roberts, Bell, Brown, Cain,
Campbell, Capps, Cole, Dickerson,
Douglass, Easley, Fair, Fisher,
Ford, Gustafson, Haney, Harrison,
Helton, Hendrick, Henry, Herbert,
Hobson, Horner, Kerr, Leftwich,
Littlefield, Long (Ed), Long
(Lewis), Maddox, Martin, Mickle,
Monson, Muegge, Pierce, Price,
Robinson, Rozell, Rubottom,
Shedrick, Shurden, Smith, Snyder,
Stipe, Taylor, Weedn, Wilkerson,
Williams (Don), Williams (Penny)
and Wright of the Senate

and

Ervin, 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, 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, Weaver, Webb, Weese,
Wells and Worthen of the House

A Concurrent Resolution praising all firefighters,
particularly volunteer fire departments, who fought recent
grass fires caused by the current drought; and directing
distribution.

WHEREAS, thousands of grass fires throughout the state burned hundreds of thousands of acres during the last weeks of February and early March 1996. At times, several roads, including some sections of the interstate system, were closed due to heavy smoke and several automobile accidents that resulted in injuries to motorists. Whipped by high winds, low humidity, and a continuing drought, the state became a smoldering tinderbox. Fires, some ranging several miles in length with flames up to 30 feet high, burned many homes, barns and other buildings and resulted in many injuries and at least one death; and

WHEREAS, volunteer fire departments and professional firefighters as well as other groups such as the Oklahoma National Guard, and others associated with state and local governments worked tirelessly for seemingly endless hours to contain the fires and limit damage and destruction. Other groups such as the Red Cross, Civil Air Patrol, and law enforcement personnel supported the firefighters, helped monitor the fire, and were of immense assistance. At times, nameless volunteers, travelers, and complete strangers joined the effort to fight the fires. One was quoted by the media as saying "We're just trying to help out any way we can"; and

WHEREAS, the identities of all the individuals and organizations who participated in fighting the fires and performing support services will never be known. In a time of need and danger, the people of Oklahoma responded in a manner that brought credit to the state and should instill a sense of pride in its citizens.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature praises all the firefighters, particularly the volunteer fire departments, who fought and performed support functions, combating the recent grass fires that ravaged the State of Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the State Fire Marshal, the Oklahoma Civil Emergency Management Department, the Oklahoma National Guard, the Department of Public Safety, the U.S. Forestry Service, the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association, and the Rural Fire Coordinator of each substate planning district.

Adopted by the Senate the 11th day of March, 1996.

President of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 27th day of March, 1996.

Speaker of the House of Representatives