STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1011 By: Hager

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution proclaiming the first week of June, 1995, as "Scout Appreciation Week"; recognizing Pawhuska as the home of the first Boy Scout troop established in the United States; stating history and purpose of scouting; designating founders of Scouting in England and in Oklahoma; honoring scouting troops; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Sir Robert Baden-Powell, inspired by his love of the outdoors and his quest for learning about nature and how to survive in the wilderness, founded the Boy Scout movement in England in 1907 bringing Scouting to youth the world over; and

WHEREAS, Reverend John Forbes Mitchell, a close associate of Robert Baden-Powell, served as an aide and chaplain during the Boer War with Robert Baden-Powell and also assisted him in the early days of Scouting in England; and

WHEREAS, Reverend John Forbes Mitchell was sent to Oklahoma by the Church of England to serve as a minister at St. Thomas Episcopal Church located in Pawhuska; and

WHEREAS, Reverend John Forbes Mitchell, soon after his arrival in Oklahoma, established in Pawhuska the first Boy Scout troop with a British charter in the United States in May, 1909, months before the Boy Scouts of America organization was founded in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the newly established Pawhuska Boy Scout troop, received in 1910 a Boy Scouts of America charter designating them as Troop 1 in Pawhuska, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, those first Scouts in Pawhuska, who rode their ponies over the Oklahoma hills playing "outlaw and sheriff", who camped in the untamed wilderness where wildcats, horse traders, bank and train robbers roamed, and who braved sandstorms and other turbulent elements of nature, are not forgotten and live in the memories of many Scouts and Oklahomans today; and

WHEREAS, the first Scouts from Pawhuska leave behind a rich and inspiring Scouting legacy and history which have been portrayed in heartwarming tales depicting their brave adventures and good deeds in articles and magazines such as "Scouting"; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Boy Scouting is to encourage youth to develop good character, citizenship, mental and physical fitness, to serve others and to do good deeds so that they will make good ethical choices and achieve their full potential over their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Boy Scouting remains the same as it did for the first Scouts in Pawhuska 86 years ago.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature proclaims the first week of June, 1995, as "Scout Appreciation Week" honoring Scouts in Pawhuska and across this great state for the valuable services they are performing and the contributions they are making to their communities and to the state as a whole.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature recognizes Pawhuska, Oklahoma, as having established the first Boy Scout troop in the United States and honors those first Scouts and Scoutmasters in Pawhuska who have left us with such a rich history and legacy of

what it was like to participate in Scouting in the earlier days of statehood.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature honors the Reverend John Forbes Mitchell and the nineteen original members of the first Scout Troop established in Pawhuska who include: Joe McGuire, Robert McGuire, Roland McGuire, Douglas Foote, Jack Hutchings, John I. Johnson, Walter Johnson, Lee Copeland, Cliff Ferguson, Thomas Leahy, Tim Leahy, Roger Leahy, Clyde Wilson, Dick Millard, "Spider" Hinkle, Clemmer Curtis, Roland Blanc, Alex Tinker and Jack Coffey.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature encourages Oklahomans to visit the Osage County Historical Society Museum which archives the 1909 Boy Scout troop photographs, correspondence with the Reverend John Forbes Mitchell, newspaper stories and taped interviews with some of the first Scouts from Pawhuska.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature congratulates Troop 43 in Pawhuska for their upcoming Field of Dreams Camporee which will include a variety of activities to be held during the first part of June, 1995.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature supports Scouting, encourages its continued growth in membership, and recognizes that such a quality, civic-minded program instills the highest standards of moral character, citizenship, and courage that helps youth in Oklahoma and across the United States to become outstanding leaders of the future.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Bruce Hendren, Scoutmaster, Troop 43, Pawhuska, Oklahoma; Ira Reeves, Scoutmaster, Troop 33, Pawhuska, Oklahoma; Jere B. Ratcliffe, Chief Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America, Irving, Texas; Roger Ohmstede, Southern Regional Director, Boy Scouts of America, Kennesaw, Georgia; Dick Austin, Area Director, Boy Scouts of America, Hurst, Texas; David Richardson, Scout Executive, Cherokee Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, Bartlesville, Oklahoma; Paul R. Moore, Scout

Executive, Last Frontier Council, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Betty Smith, Director, Osage County Historical Society Museum.

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