

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1104

By: Hutchison

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution designating the "General Stand Watie Memorial Highway"; directing the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to place markers; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, General Stand Watie was one of the most influential characters in the early history of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Stand Watie was born on December 12, 1806, on the Coossee-wa-tee Stream in the old Cherokee Nation in Georgia, near the present site of the city of Rome; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of the Civil War, Stand Watie organized a group of Cherokees and whites for the purpose of protecting Indian Territory from federal forces; and

WHEREAS, in May of 1861, Stand Watie was commissioned a colonel and authorized to raise an Indian regiment which was known as "The Cherokee Mounted Rifles" and on May 10, 1864, Stand Watie was promoted to Brigadier General in the Confederate Army and he organized the Indian troops known as General Watie's Indian Brigade; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 1865, General Stand Watie had the distinction of making the last surrender of the Civil War, which occurred at Doaksville in the Choctaw Nation, nearly three months after the surrender of General Lee; and

WHEREAS, during the Civil War, and the reconstruction period following the war, General Stand Watie strived to bring harmony and restoration to the Cherokee people; and

WHEREAS, Stand Watie died on September 9, 1871, and is buried not far from his home on Honey Creek in Delaware County; and

WHEREAS, a tradition among some Cherokees is that General Stand Watie was immune from injury, that no gun could kill him, that no human hand was capable of dealing him a mortal wound, and that his enthusiasm was so contagious that his troops would remark "we would win because we had Watie with us".

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

THAT U.S. Highway 59, from the Honey Creek Bridge near Grove to the junction of U.S. Highway 412 near Kansas, shall be designated the "General Stand Watie Memorial Highway".

THAT the Oklahoma Department of Transportation shall cause suitable permanent markers to be placed upon the highway bearing the name.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Secretary of Transportation, Neal McCaleb.

45-2-9971

JAF