ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 25 By: Haney, Williams, Capps, Helton, Brown, Cain, Campbell, Dickerson, Douglass, Dunlap, Easley, Fair, Fisher, Ford, Gustafson, Harrison, Hendrick, Henry, Herbert, Hobson, Horner, Kerr, Laughlin, Leftwich, Littlefield, Long, Maddox, Martin, Mickle, Milacek, Monson, Morgan, Muegge, Price, Rabon, Roberts, Robinson, Rozell, Shurden, Smith, Snyder, Stipe, Taylor, Weedn, Wilcoxson, Wilkerson, Williamson and Wright

A Resolution praising the life and career of Mildred Cleghorn; mourning her loss; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Mildred Cleghorn was born in captivity 86 years ago on December 11, 1910, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Cleghorn was one of the last Apaches born a prisoner of war of the United States government. The then Chiricahua Warm Springs Apache Tribe, now known as the Fort Sill Apache Tribe, was taken captive as part of Geronimo's surrender in 1886. The tribe was not freed until 1913 and offered land in Oklahoma or New Mexico. The Cleghorn family settled on 40 acres near Apache, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Mildred Cleghorn remembered her family being freed and leaving the post in a horse-drawn wagon. She graduated from Apache public schools and attended Cameron Junior College. A graduate of Oklahoma State University, she did graduate work at the University of Oklahoma. Cleghorn taught at several schools and retired from the Apache School District in 1973. She always stressed the importance of education to her family and tribe; and

WHEREAS, Mildred Cleghorn became nationally acclaimed for creating dolls to accurately represent the dress of all the Indian tribes she encountered while teaching school. In more than 50 years, she designed many dolls, 41 of which were exhibited at the Smithsonian Institute, in a State Capitol exhibit sponsored by the Oklahoma Arts Council and at other famous museums. She was named "Honored One" by Red Earth, Inc., in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Mildred Cleghorn served for 18 years as the Chair of her tribe. She helped reorganize the tribe in 1977 and retired in 1995. She was considered the matriarch of the tribe. She also served on the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission and was honored by the Indian Sovereignty Symposium in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Mildred Cleghorn refused to be bitter about her family's captivity but instead put her trust in God. She was proud of her heritage and deeply loved her people. She did everything she could for them. Her dedication and faith compelled all people to listen respectfully when this quiet and humble woman spoke; and

WHEREAS, Mildred Cleghorn died in an automobile accident Tuesday, April 15, 1997. She is survived by a daughter, Penny Cleghorn; three grandchildren, Shane G. Schartzer of Albany, Georgia, Aimee J. Schartzer of Lawton, Oklahoma, and S. Levie Schartzer of Apache, Oklahoma; and three great-grandchildren. Her husband, William G. Cleghorn, died in 1970. Her cousin, Allan Houser, whose sculpture "As Long As The Waters Flow" stands in front of the Oklahoma State Capitol, also preceded her in death. Mildred Cleghorn will be buried at the Apache Tribal Cemetery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises the life and career of Mildred Cleghorn.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate mourns her loss.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to her daughter, Penny Cleghorn; the Oklahoma Arts Council; the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission; Red Earth, Inc.; the Oklahoma Supreme Court, sponsors of the annual Indian Sovereignty Symposium; and the Fort Sill Apache Tribe.