

ENROLLED SENATE

RESOLUTION NO. 41 By: Haney, Smith, Brown, Cain, Campbell, Capps, Dickerson, Douglass, Dunlap, Easley, Fair, Fisher, Ford, Gustafson, Harrison, Helton, Hendrick, Henry, Herbert, Hobson, Horner, Kerr, Laughlin, Leftwich, Littlefield, Long, Maddox, Martin, Mickle, Milacek, Monson, Morgan, Muegge, Price, Rabon, Roberts, Robinson, Rozell, Shurden, Snyder, Stipe, Taylor, Weedn, Wilcoxson, Wilkerson, Williams, Williamson and Wright

A Resolution honoring Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief Claude A. Cox; proclaiming June 21, 1997, as "Claude A. Cox Day" in the State of Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Claude Allen Cox was born in 1913, the son of Porter and Stella Haynes Cox and grandson of Samuel J. Haynes, former Judge of the Creek Nation. A lifetime resident of Okmulgee County, Claude A. Cox attended school until 1929, when, after his father's death, he was forced to quit school to take care of his mother and six younger brothers and sisters; and

WHEREAS, after working for a local oil company for a few months, Claude A. Cox began working for Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO), a career that would last 45 years. Claude A. Cox began as a truck driver and worked his way up to a position in the Department of Customer Contact and New Business. Before his retirement from PSO in 1974, he became active in Creek tribal affairs. Claude A. Cox served in leadership positions in several churches and held many offices of importance in labor unions. These positions enabled him to gain and experience valuable leadership opportunities which he would put to good use; and

WHEREAS, Claude A. Cox was appointed by Chief Dode McIntosh to the Creek National Council and served in that capacity during the years 1960-1965. In 1971, Claude A. Cox became the first elected Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and was reelected four times until he retired in 1991. At the time of his election as leader of one of the largest Indian nations in the country, the tribal office consisted of one room in the original Creek Council House in downtown Okmulgee, Oklahoma, the capitol of the Creek Nation. Today the legacy of Claude A. Cox is evident in a sprawling tribal complex of buildings in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, that houses programs and services offered by the Creek Nation. The phenomenal growth and advancement of the Creek Nation stemmed in his belief and philosophy of "getting things done," and stressing "there's always a way if you keep going and don't look back." Claude A. Cox served as Principal Chief for twenty years and many of the programs and services implemented during his tenure served as models for other tribes to follow and are still being provided today; and

WHEREAS, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival Committee is planning a special event in conjunction with their annual celebration in June 1997. They will honor former Principal Chief Claude A. Cox with a dedication ceremony and unveiling of a bronze bust of Chief Cox.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate honors Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief Claude A. Cox.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate proclaims June 21, 1997, as "Claude A. Cox Day" in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief Claude A. Cox and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival Committee.