ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 47 By: Helton, Brown, Cain, Campbell, Capps, Dickerson, Douglass, Dunlap, Easley, Fair, Fisher, Ford, Gustafson, Haney, 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, Williams, Williamson and Wright

A Resolution recognizing and honoring the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum and its invaluable contributions to the people of this nation; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by brave individuals willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure this nation's freedom; and

WHEREAS, the Eighth Air Force has admirably served the United States since its inception 56 years ago in Savannah, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable organization became the largest air force in the history of aviation, serving in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, in World War II, the Mighty Eighth Air Force played an integral role in the success of the invasion of Europe and defeat of Nazi Germany; and

WHEREAS, in the Korean War, Eighth Air Force personnel were assigned to combat operations under the operational control of the Far East Air Force (FEAF) that performed conventional strikes over North Korea; and

WHEREAS, in the Vietnam War, the Eighth Air Force was headquartered at Andersen Air Force Base on the island of Guam, providing B-52 bombing missions with refueling support by KC-135s throughout the combat theater; and

WHEREAS, in the Gulf War, the Eighth Air Force provided B-52 bombers, jet refueling aircraft and high altitude reconnaissance aircraft, which played a major role in the Air Campaign of the Persian Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, today, the Eighth Air Force, Headquartered at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, continues its distinguished service as a unit of the Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, since 1942, over one million Americans, many of them from Oklahoma, have served their country in the Eighth Air Force; and

WHEREAS, two of the Eighth Air Force's 17 Medal of Honor recipients were from Oklahoma. First Lieutenant Donald Joseph Gott, a native of Arnett, Oklahoma, was a pilot who was killed in action and Lieutenant Colonel Leon Robert Vance Jr. of Enid, Oklahoma, had Vance Air Force Base named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, one of the Eighth Air Force's many aces also was from Oklahoma. Major Robert S. Johnson, a native of Lawton, Oklahoma, had 28 kills as a P-47 pilot in the Eighth Air Force. Major Johnson was the second leading ace in the European Theater of Operations; and

WHEREAS, in honor of the over one million men and women who courageously served in the Eighth Air Force, the Mighty Eighth Air

Force Heritage Museum is a memorial and monument to those men and women who did not return from war and to the survivors who continue to make their selfless contributions to our great nation; and

WHEREAS, the Heritage Museum includes attractions such as the Memorial Gardens, the Wall of Valor and fourteen large free-standing monuments; and

WHEREAS, the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum is recognized as a national treasure that is essential in educating our young people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes and honors the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum and its invaluable contributions to the people of this nation.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum.