

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1035

By: Blackburn of the House

and

Littlefield, Herbert and
Mickle of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the Department of Public Safety; remembering officers who gave their lives in the line of duty; directing the Department to continue its mission; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, on April 20, 1937, Governor E.W. Marland signed a bill, with emergency clause attached, creating the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, with headquarters at Northwest 10th and Broadway in Oklahoma City, the first Commissioner, J.M. "Bud" Gentry, set the organization in motion; and

WHEREAS, after traveling to Michigan, Maryland, Iowa and Pennsylvania to observe modern statewide law enforcement agencies, Commissioner Gentry had the basic framework established by May. He then issued a call for applicants to attend the first Oklahoma Highway Patrol Academy; and

WHEREAS, personally interviewing most of the 500 applicants, Commissioner Gentry and his aides chose approximately 140 of the best qualified to attend the Academy on the campus of the University of Oklahoma at Norman; and

WHEREAS, in July 1937, with 85 men in uniform, Commissioner Gentry, Assistant Commissioner H.E. Bailey, and Patrol Chief Jack Hitch assigned the first troopers to the field at One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) per month salary; and

WHEREAS, at headquarters, the Registration Division was organized and Oklahoma's first driver examiners were sent into the field; and

WHEREAS, traffic control began preparing accident and arrest files. Thus, the Department of Public Safety began a remarkable period of service to the citizens of the state; and

WHEREAS, by continually assuming new duties, working with a specific goal in mind, and dedicating careers to protecting human lives, employees have helped the Department grow from an operation of fewer than 100 persons to a state agency of more than 1,300; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety has been guided by 16 Commissioners, the first being Commissioner J.M. "Bud" Gentry (1937-1938) and the current Commissioner Bob A. Ricks; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Patrol Division of the Department of Public Safety has seen 22 Chiefs, from Chief Jack Hitch (1937-1939) to Chief Gary Adams of today; and

WHEREAS, 26 Highway Patrol Officers and one Lake Patrol Officer have been killed in the line of duty during the 60-year history of the Department of Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, the Department currently is holding the 49th Oklahoma Highway Patrol Academy; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety is comprised of many divisions to help preserve the peace and safety of the state's citizens. Many of these divisions include Capitol Patrol, Lake Patrol, Highway Patrol, Communications, Driver Licensing, Driver Improvement, Financial Responsibility, Accident Records and many other divisions which comprise the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety.

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

THAT the Legislature hereby commemorates the sixtieth
anniversary of the Department of Public Safety.

THAT those officers who gave their lives for their fellow
citizens are hereby specially remembered, as they shall always hold
a special place in our lives.

THAT the Department of Public Safety continue its mission of
working to provide a safe and secure environment for the public
through courteous, quality and professional services.

THAT a copy of this resolution shall be dispatched to the
Commissioner of Public Safety.

46-1-7472

SD