ENGROSSED HOUSE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1035

By: Fields of the House

and

Stipe of the Senate

A Concurrent Resolution honoring the City of McAlester, Oklahoma, upon the occasion of its 100th anniversary; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of McAlester in 1899, McAlester takes pride in the part it has played in the history and development of the State of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, McAlester was the major city in the Choctaw area of Indian Territory and was the capital of the coal mining industry which drove the economy in this part of Oklahoma until replaced by oil in other parts of the state; and

WHEREAS, at statehood, McAlester was already a progressive town with brick-paved streets, a first-class utility system, good public schools, electric interurban railway system connecting it with other Pittsburg County towns and the finest hotel and theater in Indian Territory which made McAlester the entertainment and cultural center for several generations; and

WHEREAS, the crossing of the MK&T and the Rock Island Railroads determined the site for the development of McAlester as a town; and

WHEREAS, the coal industry caused the influx of a great many different nationalities into the area which has produced an ethnic mix which is commemorated by a most impressive mine monument and memorial in Chadick Park and honored annually with the Italian Festival each Memorial Day Weekend; and

WHEREAS, with statehood came the Oklahoma State Penitentiary which, along with the Jackie Brannon Correctional Center, remains one of the largest employers in the area; and

WHEREAS, McAlester has always been a military town with active National Guard and Reserve programs which is evidenced by the enthusiasm with which Armed Forces Day is celebrated each year as one of the most patriotic communities in the country; and

WHEREAS, McAlester citizens have been prominent in state politics from the framers of the Oklahoma Constitution to the present including its founder, J.J. McAlester, who was one of the first state Corporation Commissioners, U.S. House Speaker Carl Albert, Governor George Nigh and Senator Gene Stipe; and

WHEREAS, a higher education facility was recently opened as an extension of Eastern Oklahoma State College with an enrollment the first week of over 1,200 students; and

WHEREAS, McAlester is a wonderful city with a rich past and a bright future; and

WHEREAS, McAlester, the Pittsburg County Seat, located in the heart of Southeastern Oklahoma, will observe its centennial all throughout 1999.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature honors the City of McAlester, Oklahoma, upon the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Mayor of McAlester, Oklahoma, the Chair of the McAlester Centennial Commission, the Oklahoma Municipal League, and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 5th day of May, 1999.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

Adopted by the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1999.

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President of the Senate