

ENROLLED HOUSE  
RESOLUTION NO. 1017

By: Matlock and Dunegan

A Resolution honoring the contributions of the Choctaw Code Talkers during World War I; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, long before World War II and America's use of Navajo Code Talkers, there were eight men who played a significant role that contributed to the end of World War I, the Choctaw Code Talkers; and

WHEREAS, in the closing days of World War I, these eight members of the Choctaw Nation were instrumental in helping the American Expeditionary Force win several key battles in the Mousse-Argonne campaign; and

WHEREAS, a company commander, Captain Lawrence, overheard a conversation in a strange language between two of his soldiers which turned out to be their native Choctaw language and Captain Lawrence was inspired to use this language as a means of strategy against the Germans; and

WHEREAS, Captain Lawrence used the eight Choctaws in the battalion to relay messages and orders in their native tongue and within 48 hours, the Germans were in full retreat of the attacking American and Allied forces; and

WHEREAS, the eight men who made a significant contribution as the Choctaw Code Talkers were Solomon Lewis, Mitchell Bobb, Ben Carterby, Robert Taylor, Jeff Nelson, Pete Maytubby, James Edwards and Calvin Wilson Goodwater; and

WHEREAS, these men were highly praised by their company and battalion commanders with promises of medals; however, no further recognition for their services were ever given; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma and the Choctaw Nation are extremely proud of the contributions of the Choctaw Code Talkers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives honors the eight men known as the Choctaw Code Talkers for their unique contribution while serving their country which helped shape the end of World War I.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Greg Pyle, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 17th day of May,  
2001.

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Presiding Officer of the House of  
Representatives