

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 9

By: Leftwich of the Senate

and

Lindley of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution designating August 2001 as "Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month" in the State of Oklahoma; urging the experience of homicide survivors be recognized; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, family, friends, neighbors, coworkers and acquaintances of a homicide victim are all "Survivors of Homicide Victims"; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has realized this truth by establishing the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) which advocates fair treatment of crime victims; and

WHEREAS, the Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) was founded in 1978 in Cincinnati, Ohio, and now has over 300 chapters. The aim of POMC is to support persons who survived the violent death of a loved one as they seek to recover; to provide contact with similarly bereaved persons and establish self-help groups that meet regularly; to provide information about the grieving process and the criminal justice system as they pertain to survivors; to communicate with professionals in the supporting fields about the problems faced by the survivors; and to increase society's awareness of these problems; and

WHEREAS, this organization was most vividly described by the article "A Grief Like No Other" by Eric Schlosser, which appeared in the September 1997 edition of *Atlantic* magazine; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was the first state in the nation to take innovative action for homicide survivors by designating a special period of time each year for survivors of victims of homicide so that the public may reflect and learn from their grief.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate hereby designates August 2001, as "Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month" in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate urges that the month of August 2001 serve as a time to highlight the experiences of homicide survivors and the effects of violence on people's lives, and to teach people, communities, and the nation ways to provide support and assistance to such survivors.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety, the Council on Law Enforcement and Training (CLEET), the Department of Corrections, the Criminal Justice Resource Center, and the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI).

48-1-1048

THC

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