ENGROSSED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 4

By: Wilkerson Aldridge, Branan, Brogdon, Cain, Capps, Coates, Coffee, Corn, Crutchfield, Dunlap, Easley, Fair, Fisher, Ford, Gumm, Harrison, Helton, Hobson, Horner, Johnson, Kerr, Laster, Laughlin, Lawler, Leftwich, Littlefield, Maddox, Milacek, Monson, Morgan, Myers, Nichols, Price, Pruitt, Rabon, Reynolds, Riley, Robinson, Rozell, Shurden, Smith, Snyder, Taylor, Wilcoxson, Williams and Williamson of the Senate

and

Turner of the House

A Concurrent Resolution praising astronaut John Bennett Herrington, a Native American from Wetumka, Oklahoma; commending his achievements and encouragement of Native American youth; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, John Bennett Herrington was born on September 14, 1958, in Wetumka, Oklahoma. After graduating from high school, he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in applied mathematics from the University of Colorado. A Distinguished Naval Graduate from Aviation Officer Candidate School, he received his commission in 1984 and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1985. Commander John Herrington attended the United States Navy Test Pilot School and, after graduation, reported to the Force Warfare Aircraft Test Directorate as a project test pilot. He completed a Masters of Science Degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the United States Naval Postgraduate School in 1995 and has logged over 3,300 flight hours in over 30 different types of aircraft; and

WHEREAS, Commander Herrington is a Life Member of the Association of Naval Aviation and a Sequoyah Fellow with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. During his naval

career, Commander Herrington was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal and the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation as well as various other service awards. He was assigned as a special projects officer to the Bureau of Naval Personnel Sea Duty Component when selected for the astronaut program; and

WHEREAS, selected by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1996, Commander Herrington reported to the Johnson Space Center. After two years of training and evaluation, he was qualified for flight assignment as a mission specialist; and

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2002, John Herrington, the first tribally registered Native American astronaut, was launched into space aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavor from the Kennedy Space Center for the 16th American assembly flight to the International Space Station. Commander Herrington served as Endeavour's Flight Engineer for both launch and landing. During the mission, Commander Herrington, a member of the Chickasaw Nation, was one of the astronauts conducting spacewalks, becoming the first Native American to walk in space; and

WHEREAS, the great-grandson of original Chickasaw enrollees Bina Underwood Owens and John Owens, John Herrington is proud of his Chickasaw heritage and enjoys being a role model to Native American students. He and his siblings are first-generation college graduates in their family, and he always stresses the importance of education and setting and achieving goals. Commander Herrington often speaks to young people, including Native Americans, recalling how he overcame adversity to reach his present position. To honor his ancestry, John Herrington took a number of Native American artifacts and sacred objects into space with him on the mission; and

WHEREAS, after 13 days, 18 hours and 47 minutes, including four days of landing attempts, the mission came to a close when the Space Shuttle Endeavour safely glided in to a landing at Kennedy Space Center. While in space, Commander John Herrington performed three

spacewalks to activate and outfit a P-One Truss. This journey was the 19th flight of the Endeavor and the 112th shuttle mission; and

WHEREAS, in January 2003, Astronaut John Herrington returned to his hometown where he spoke to more than 600 students from Wetumka and surrounding areas as well as family, friends, and school alumni. The hometown hero reviewed his childhood, love of flying, career as an astronaut and space walk. Astronaut Herrington received a standing ovation, a Wetumka baseball cap, tee shirt, brass key to the city, and was made an honorary graduate of Wetumka High School. In return, John Herrington left montages of photos and flags that flew aboard the shuttle, autographs, pictures, and memories that are sure to inspire students and adults alike.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature praises Wetumka, Oklahoma, native, Astronaut John Bennett Herrington, Commander, United States Navy, for his career as an astronaut and his recent accomplishments in space.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature commends Native American John Bennett Herrington for his many achievements and encouragement to Native American youths, acting as a role model for those who strive to advance themselves despite barriers.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Astronaut John Bennett Herrington, Commander, United States Navy; Bill Anoatubby, Governor of the Chickasaw Nation; and Wetumka High School.

Adopted by the Senate the 28th day of May, 2003.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 2003.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives